



ALCHEMY EMPEROR OF THE DIVINE DAO

BOOK 03

Flying Alone

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Alchemy Emperor of the Divine Dao

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Synopsis

An ultimate warrior, the one and only Alchemy Emperor, Ling Han, had died in his quest to achieve godhood. Ten thousands years later, and he, with the “Invincible Heaven Scroll”, was reborn in the body of a young man with the same name. From then on, winds and clouds moved, as he set himself against uncountable geniuses of this new era. His path of becoming a legend has begun once more. At all eras, and underneath the heavens, I am the strongest!

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Chapter 201: Probe

"Kill your sister!" Ling Han snorted.

"You're rebuking me?" Liu Ru Er felt extremely wronged, and immediately pouted.

"The person outside is in Spiritual Ocean Tier!" Ling Han exclaimed.

Liu Ru Er was instantly silenced. It was precisely a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, Xu Ke Xin, that she and her sister had lost to. If they had been able to kill a powerful martial artist like that, then they would have had no need to hide here to recover from their injuries.

"Then what do we do?" Yun Shuang Shuang turned towards Ling Han. Having not completely shrugged off Lady Yan's authority, she was completely at a loss what to do.

Ling Han thought for a moment, then said, "All of you go and hide inside the inner room."

The three girls quickly rushed into the inner room, whereas Ling Han walked towards the main door and opened it.

At the doorway, Lady Yan was standing in a beautiful pose, exuding a mature, exquisite grace. It was definitely not something that a wet-behind-the-ears young girl could compare to. She smiled softly, and asked, "What were you busy with, Mister Ling? I was waiting for quite a while outside here!"

She was suspicious?

Ling Han was naturally calm and collected. This woman held a deep, powerful love for her son; there was no doubt about that. However, he had never thought that she would have schemes so terrifyingly profound; she had already included Yun Shuang Shuang in her plans quite a few years ago. If it was not for the fact that Yun Shuang Shuang had so coincidentally overheard the

conversation between her and Yan Tian Zhao, then perhaps Yun Shuang Shuang would still feel overwhelmingly grateful to her, even until the moment of her death.

But when he thought about it, how could Lady Yan be a simple character if she was able to make the business of Cherishing Flower Pavilion into such a booming establishment?

"Nothing much. I was just playing around with Hu Niu." Ling Han smiled, and said, "Does Lady Yan have some business with me?"

"So I can't just come by for a chat if I don't have any business with you?" Lady Yan smiled sweetly, her charm on full blast.

However, this only gave Ling Han goosebumps. 'You're already a middle-aged woman in your forties, and no matter how enchanting and charming you are, you still would not try and make a move on a young man like me, right?' He frowned and said, "It is not proper for a single man and woman to be together alone."

"Mister Ling is really good at making jokes. You and Tian Zhao are brothers, and members of a younger generation than I, how does your theory about a single man and woman make sense, then?" Lady Yan said calmly. Then, she giggled, and with a light tremble of her body, she said, "Mister Ling, could it be that you are hiding a beauty in your residence, and fear that I would discover her?"

She forced herself in, and Ling Han had no way to stop her. A Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist was far stronger than he.

Hu Niu instantly glared at her, and naturally thought Lady Yan to be an enemy.

Ling Han picked Hu Niu up so that the little girl would not be injured by Lady Yan if she actually dared to attack the latter. He followed at Lady Yan's heels, and said, "I do indeed have a young girl hidden here."

"Oh, who is it?" Lady Yan asked casually.

"How could it be anyone but this little girl here?" Ling Han laughed. He knew that Lady Yan was already suspicious, which was why she had forced her way in. It was obvious that Yun Shuang Shuang was of critical importance to Lady Yan, so much that she could even turn hostile against him for her.

...This concerned Yan Tian Zhao's future prospects.

One should never underestimate the maniacal lengths a mother could go to; she could do unimaginable things for the sake of her child.

Lady Yan slightly started, and instantly dissolved into a bout of delicate laughter. She did not mind showing off the "waves" of her body in front of Ling Han, causing Ling Han to feel disgusted. This body was a bit too old for his tastes. He had zero interest in seeing anything at all.

"Mister Ling, has Shuang Shuang come here previously?" She suddenly stopped, turned and asked him.

"Naturally." Ling Han nodded. "Lady Yan invited me over for a banquet a few days ago. Didn't you just send Miss Shuang Shuang over with the invitation?"

"Shuang Shuang did not come here today?" Lady Yan asked, her tone laced with meaning.

Ling Han knew that this was the point where they would be laying all their cards out on the table.

If he answered no, and Lady Yan managed to find Yun Shuang Shuang here, then the relationship between them would naturally be completely shattered.

"No!" Ling Han denied, without sparing even a moment of thought.

Though he had always had a heart to sympathize with the weaker

party, Ling Han thought that the kind of person who could manipulate the adopted daughter that she herself had taken in in such a way was disgraceful.

"Mister Ling would not mind if I take a look for myself, right?" Lady Yan asked.

"If I say I mind, would Lady Yan listen to me?" Ling Han countered, sighing deeply in his heart. If Guang Yuan had come over today, it would have been good.

Lady Yan merely giggled delicately, and began to tour around his courtyard, very quickly arriving at the room that the Liu sisters were staying in. She gave a light push, and when she realized that the doors were locked, a cold smirk curled up the corners of her lips. She suddenly exerted power through her palm, and pa , the latch that kept the doors locked was shattered from the force.

A creak resounded, and the doors opened slightly.

Lady Yan gave a light push, and the two doors instantly opened wide.

"Ya!" A girl had been in the process of putting on her clothes, and when she saw the visitor, she hurriedly used her clothing to cover her breasts and asked with alarm, "Who are you?"

Lady Yan's eyes swept over her. This was a young girl, and an extremely beautiful one at that, but she looked very different from Yun Shuang Shuang. Moreover, she was too familiar with Yun Shuang Shuang. Even if the latter had disguised herself, there was no way her eyes would be fooled.

This girl was obviously not her.

"Ai, I'd like to request Lady Yan to keep my secret!" Ling Han deliberately sighed. "Please do not tell Yu Tong!"

A flash of suspicion passed over Lady Yan's face. Could it be that this girl was Ling Han's little girlfriend, and that was why he had tried repeatedly to stop her from entering? It was as simple as

that? However, why did this girl look a little familiar to her?

As she thought, she slowly nodded, and said with a smile, "Men are indeed all greedy and lecherous. Yu Tong is the princess of the Liu Clan. Treat her well; please do not miss out on such a wonderful relationship."

Ling Han merely grinned awkwardly.

"I shall not disturb the two of you, then. I still have some matters to attend to, so I shall beg my leave here. If Mister Ling is free, please do come frequently to the Cherishing Flower Pavilion to play. Tian'er misses you and Yu Tong very much." Lady Yan turned around and left.

"I shall escort you." Ling Han turned around and winked at Liu Feng Er, who was inside the room, then escorted Lady Yan out.

When they arrived at the doors, Lady Yan abruptly turned around and asked, "Mister Ling, what is the name of that girl just now? I seem to have seen her somewhere before?"

"How could that be? She is just a silly girl who has never seen the world," Ling Han said with a smile.

Lady Yan nodded, turned and left.

Ling Han closed the door and hurried to the room. At this moment, Liu Ru Er and Yun Shuang Shuang had also crawled out from underneath the bed. They had been holding their breath and hanging from the bedframe all along just now, so at this moment, they were panting for breath.

"Hu, thank goodness the old witch was fooled and left!" Liu Ru Er said, patting her chest in relief.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "Maybe not!"

"Hasn't she already left?" Liu Ru Er asked in incomprehension.

"She has, but she has not let go of all her suspicions," Ling Han said. "If it was not for the fact that she did not want to completely

turn hostile against me, she would have searched through the whole courtyard just now. However, this will only delay her for a while."

He paused, and said to Liu Feng Er, "However, your identity has been exposed. I believe that she will quickly recall that you are a wanted criminal."

"That's impossible!" Liu Ru Er shook her head, then said proudly, "I deliberately let my sister step out just now. No one has seen her real face before!"

"Are you an idiot!" Ling Han said bluntly, and pointed at the mirror. "Just take a look at how similar the two of you look like? There would also be some discrepancies with the portrait of the wanted criminal, so the two of you can completely be taken to be the same person!"

"She must have gone to inform the Imperial Guards by now, and before long, the Imperial Guards would arrive to investigate. By that time, the three of you would be found, and her goal would naturally be achieved."

Chapter 202: Making a Choice on the Path of Cultivation

"Then what do we do now?" A hint of worry appeared on the faces of the three girls.

"Of course, flee!" Ling Han waved them off. "Immediately, right now, all of you disguise yourselves and leave the Imperial City."

"Yi, how did you know that we know how to disguise ourselves?" Liu Ru Er was once again stunned.

Ling Han sighed, and looked at her scornfully. "Don't forget. I have seen how your sister looks like after she has disguised herself."

"Oh, right!" Liu Ru Er clapped her hands, then looked a bit dejected. She was really so stupid, always being mocked by this guy.

"Make a move. You all don't have much time left," Ling Han urged.

The three girls quickly began disguising themselves. The Liu Sisters were professionals in this area. They disguised themselves first before helping Yun Shuang Shuang with her disguise. Instantly, they became three young men. What astonished Ling Han was the fact that, somehow, they managed to flatten their breasts and there was a protruding Adam's apple on their necks.

They put on Ling Han's clothing, and took with them some cash. Their original clothing, such as their skirts, for example, was burnt to ashes in the courtyard.

"Young Master Han, thank you. In the future, if I get the chance, Shuang Shuang will do everything to repay your great kindness!" Yun Shuang Shuang thanked him.

Ling Han shrugged, and said, "If you have not been sold off by the

sisters, then we'll talk about it."

"Pei, we're not human traffickers!" Liu Ru Er rolled her eyes. She thought that Ling Han was a really detestable character, always bickering with her.

"Mister Ling, we shall meet again." Liu Feng Er curtsied. However, because she currently appeared to be a young man, this movement was extremely weird.

"Go on." Ling Han waved them off.

The three girls left, and soon, there was no sign left of them.

"Haha, it's finally quiet around here." Ling Han laughed. Actually, this was his real purpose. He had finally chased off two freeloaders, so he was very pleased.

"Ye!" Hu Niu was also clapping her hands in delight, though she did not know what Ling Han was so happy about.

However, Ling Han had not guessed wrongly. After over an hour, a troop of Imperial Guards arrived. Though their tone was polite, and they even apologized for disturbing him, they still insisted to search through Ling Han's courtyard.

Naturally, nothing was discovered.

They apologetically begged their leave. They had arrived in a rush, and also left in a rush.

Ling Han sighed. Looks like he and Lady Yan were firmly on opposing sides by now—it was not that they had not found the person she was looking for, but that they had not found anyone at all! Since one person could disappear, then, naturally, two or even three could disappear as well!

For the sake of her son, Lady Yan immersed herself in scheming, and could even involve the adopted daughter she had cared for for so many years in her plans, what more him.

"Forget it. I'll just offend her, then. Anyways, I already have

many enemies, so it would be of no difference if I have another one." Ling Han lazily stretched. He should go and prepare their meals. Hu Niu was already hanging from his neck, and endlessly shouting, "Meat, meat, meat...!"

Three days passed in the blink of an eye, and Guang Yuan had finally arrived. However, he did not choose to stay in Ling Han's courtyard. Instead, he found another courtyard near to Ling Han's own. Anyways, there were a lot of empty, unoccupied courtyards in this area.

With a bodyguard in Spiritual Ocean Tier, Ling Han was naturally much more relaxed. This was real battle prowess. As long as no one in Spiritual Pedestal Tier appeared, there were not many who could defeat Guang Yuan. Moreover, with a bit of guidance from Ling Han, it would be enough for Guang Yuan to become invincible against anyone in Spiritual Ocean Tier.

However, Ling Han was not in the mood for this right now.

His cultivation rate was too rapid. Now, he had reached the peak period of the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier. He would have to either break through to Gushing Spring Tier, or he could only stay at this cultivation level, and there would be no further increase to his battle prowess.

It was not that he had no way to break through to Gushing Spring Tier. Instead, it was because he was currently faced with a choice—he could still attempt to challenge and break through to the tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier.

This was a cultivation level that only existed in legends and theories. At least, as far as Ling Han knew, no one had reached this cultivation level before.

Break through the limitation of nine, and capture the "one" of the world, reaching perfection.

But was it really possible?

In the records of that predecessor, that was only a guess, but it had never been accomplished before.

Ling Han considered seriously the probability of success.

In his last life, he had already been in Heaven Tier, so naturally he needed not think of this problem as he had long passed this level. However, the current him not only had the comprehension remaining from his last life, he also had the necessary conditions that qualified him to make this attempt, and this was what caused him to hesitate.

How high was this possibility?

Ling Han tried to deduce the possible results, but still did not come to a conclusion.

It could only be claimed that, theoretically, it was indeed possible. However, without being proven in reality, everything was mere empty words.

A madness gradually brimmed in his eyes, and he decided to take the gamble.

In this life, he was cultivating the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. This was an amazing technique, with a Grade so high that it could not be estimated. Then, with such a cultivation technique in his hands, should he not ensure that his foundations would be incomparably sturdy and firm?

Element Gathering Tier was the second cultivation tier in martial arts. One could say that this was merely the beginning, but it was an extremely important step, as the subsequent seven tiers would all be derived from this one tier.

He decided to take this risk!

He began his seclusion to challenge this tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier that perhaps no one had ever managed to reach before.

In his Dantian, there were nine big Origin Nuclei, and forty-five smaller Origin Nuclei that took the shape of a Nine Palace Array. It was a very stable and subtle arrangement.

If he decided to insert another Origin Nucleus, where should he put it?

Ling Han felt a headache coming on. Though he had decided to take the risk and make the attempt, he truly had no idea where to start. How could innovation be anything easy?

He had considered many possibilities, but he rejected them all. That was because if he could consider them, then it was natural that his predecessors would have thought of them as well. Even if they themselves had missed out on the chance, how could they not allow their juniors to make the attempt?

To successfully complete this step would naturally need him to deviate from the normal path, or even go to extreme lengths or a dead end; only with that would it be possible for him to be forced into such desperate straits that he had no other way but succeed.

Ling Han hesitated once again. If he merely had to follow in the steps of his predecessors, then as long as his foundations were firm, with his Immortal Grade Spirit Base and the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, he would definitely advance faster and go further than he had in his last life, so it seemed like there was no need for him to take such a risk.

However, his heart and spirit became even more determined.

He wanted to become the strongest in this life.

His heart and spirit returned to a calm state, and he began to consider a considerable number of strategies on how to proceed with his gamble.

There was a large number of possible options that were immediately eliminated by him when he thought of them, and finally, there were only two possible methods he could attempt

left.

The first was to allow the nine big Origin Nuclei to repel each other, and create a special space where he would form his tenth Origin Nucleus. The second was to merge all nine big Origin Nuclei into one gigantic Origin Nucleus. This could also be considered as "one" and conformed to the Dao of the world, becoming the evasive one.

In comparison, the second strategy was practically crazy.

Thus, Ling Han decided to first attempt the former.

He worked hard on allowing the nine big Origin Nuclei to repel each other, and create a special space in between them.

This step was possible, but the problem was that the nine big Origin Nuclei were the source of his energy and power. Now that they were repelling each other, all his energy and power was spent here, so how could he have the extra energy to form the tenth Origin Nucleus?

Ling Han tried a number of ways, but still, there was no way to solve this problem.

All of a sudden, ten days had passed, and he was still back where he had started.

Was this method not possible?

Ling Han sighed. He had already wasted precious ten days, so he did not want to and could not continue to delay the matter any longer. He still wanted to break through to Gushing Spring Tier and understand the secrets of the Black Tower.

Then, he'd give the second strategy a try.

Chapter 203: Merging Nine Nuclei

The second strategy he'd come up with was to destroy and reform.

He had to first destroy all nine big Origin Nuclei, and form a new gigantic Origin Nuclei that would become the evasive one. This conformed to the Dao of the world, and was not something he had come up with in the heat of the moment, but he could foresee that putting this into practice would be much more difficult than whatever he could think up of.

The nine big Origin Nuclei were the source of his power. If he actually shattered them all in one go, then the power created from their simultaneous destruction would be enough to kill him 1000 times, or 10,000 times, so there was no need for him to even think about forming the evasive one at that point.

The reason why Ling Han dared to do this was because there was still Big Boss Black Tower in his Dantian.

This Big Boss shattered his physical body in his last life just to have him cultivate the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, and then had him seize a new body to be reborn. How great a power was that, and how much of a concern was that? Now he intended to self-destruct his Origin Nuclei, so Big Boss Black, are you going to interfere or not?

You definitely have to interfere, right? Then everything's settled.

Ling Han was a bit shameless, but there was no other way for it. This was the first attempt to break through to the tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier in history, and he did not even know what was the right thing to do to achieve his aim. Thus, he could only depend on the Black Tower. Otherwise, there would only be a millionth of a chance that he would succeed in this attempt, so how could he dare to take the risk?

Come on then!

He controlled the Origin Nuclei in his Dantian, and began the process of destruction.

It was actually very easy to do this, because all the big Nuclei were comprised of five smaller Origin Nuclei that had different elemental alignments, and these smaller Origin Nuclei achieved a balance between them in a wonderful way. He only needed to break this balance, and the five Elements would go out of control, and naturally, the Origin Nuclei would self-destruct.

Not one by one, but all in one go!

Destruction was always easier than construction. Within only an instant, all the Origin Nuclei began to tremble. The Five Elements both augmented and restrained each other. They began to totter, as if they were the foundations of a tall skyscraper that had suffered heavy damage, and were on the verge of destruction.

Hong, hong, hong . The five Origin Nuclei were destroyed one by one. However, their explosion did not spread outwards. Instead, their explosion was concentrated inwards, as if they formed individual black holes. From an extremely big structure, they shrank into extremely small balls.

Ling Han's spirit and heart trembled, already feeling the appearance of external power.

Black Tower!

His consciousness swept over his Dantian, and saw the usually calm and ordinary Black Tower was currently emanating a pale light. There was golden writing flickering on the body of the Black Tower, but Ling Han did not even recognize half of a character of this writing, just like when he first encountered the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, which required 10,000 years simply to comprehend it.

No, no, no. 10,000 years was only enough to comprehend the first

layer of cultivation technique.

One wave of power after another swept out from the Black Tower and acted towards those forty-five Origin Nuclei of his, and it was precisely this power that allowed the explosive power to be concentrated inwards instead of exploding outwards dramatically. Otherwise... his Dantian would be completely destroyed in the aftermath.

A smile appeared at the corners of Ling Han's lips. Indeed, he had made the right gamble—the Black Tower made its move!

He had tried out a lot of things previously, but there was still no reaction from the Black Tower. That was because those attempts would not threaten Ling Han's life or cultivation, so Big Boss Black naturally was too lazy to do anything. But if Ling Han induced the self-destruction of his Origin Nuclei, then wouldn't that mean the 10,000 years of preparation Big Boss Black had spent would be completely wasted?

He hurriedly forced down the distracting thoughts in his head and began to merge the corresponding Origin Nuclei together. Earth with Earth, Fire with Fire, and so on. Finally, the forty-five Origin Nuclei were reformed into five big Origin Nuclei of different alignments.

This still seemed very small, because each Origin Nuclei was formed from nine points, and was far from one millionth of his most flourishing period, but the power concealed within them was incomparably terrifying.

Ling Han's thoughts took a different turn, and he suddenly came up with a strange idea. Could he actually merge these Origin Nuclei of different elemental alignment into one, to become one Origin Nuclei, and the only one existing in his Dantian? That would conform to the idea of the evasive one!

Again!

He began to merge the five freshly reborn Origin Nuclei.

But the difficulty level of doing that was extremely high. That was because each Origin Nuclei was formed from nine smaller Origin Nuclei, and it was filled with frightening power in the first place. Moreover, the five elements were independent of each other. First of all, Water and Fire was on completely opposing sides, so how could he merge them together?

Ling Han stopped and began to ponder.

Each Element in this world was completely independent of each other. They would of course repel one another if one attempted to merge them together. However, at the same time, the five Elements augmented and restrained one another, so it was not entirely impossible for them to be merged together. As the saying goes, Dao gave rise to one, one gave rise to two, two gave rise to three, and three gave rise to all things. Everything could return to one, the source of Dao. However, the world would not allow mere mortals to get hold of the source of Dao, which was how the saying of the evasive one came about.

He dared to destroy the nine Origin Nuclei and merged them together as one again, and this conformed to the theory of the evasive one. However, these five Origin Nuclei were not the real one, and not the real Dao either.

This was based on his understanding of the Dao of martial arts from his last life as a Heaven Tier elite. Otherwise, who would dare attempt such a feat?

The five Elements augmented each other, and evolved into all things. Then, if he wanted to return them back to one, he would have to retrace the steps and make use of the fact that the five Elements also restrained one another.

Ling Han's eyes slowly lit up. He knew what he had to do.

He had to let the five Elemental Origin Nuclei restrain one

another, swallow one another, and finally, there would only be "one" remaining, which would be the one that had been merged from all the five Elemental Origin Nuclei!

This was again easily said, but when he put it into practice, he needed to ensure that the five Elemental Origin Nuclei were in a perfect balance when they swallowed one another. Otherwise, as long as there was the slightest mistake, all his previous efforts would have been for nothing and he would have no way to return to the only evasive one.

In short, he could only succeed, but failure was not allowed!

It was very challenging, but he liked it.

The five Elements restrained each other. Gold restrained Wood, Wood restrained Earth, Earth restrained Water, Water restrained Fire, and Fire restrained Gold, all at once!

The Five Elements Mix Chaos Lotus fluttered, absorbing Spiritual Qi, which passed through his veins and gathered in his Dantian, delivering new energy. Ling Han stimulated the five Elemental Origin Nuclei and took the last step.

The Gold Origin Nucleus began to swallow the Wood Origin Nucleus, and the Wood Origin Nucleus began to swallow the Earth Origin Nucleus... and finally, the Fire Origin Nucleus swallowed the Gold Origin Nucleus, forming an unbreakable chain.

Ling Han's consciousness clearly saw the five Origin Nuclei were all shrinking, and merging slowly together to finally form a new Origin Nucleus. Gold, Wood, Water, Fire and Earth, all the five Elements were present yet they were united.

He succeeded.

Ling Han suddenly opened his eyes, and felt that his whole body was sore. He did not even have the energy to stand, as if his body had weakened to extreme levels. However, on the other hand, his spirit was at its highest level in history, and this was a very weird

comparison.

He opened the door, and gave a light call. When the words came out of his mouth, he realized that his voice had become low and rough, so much that he could barely recognize his own voice.

"Ling Han!" Xiu , Hu Niu's ears were too sharp, and she had raced in from outside. With a peng , she crashed into Ling Han's arms. This collision was too powerful, no weaker than an explosion, and Ling Han instantly fell to the ground from the force.

Hu Niu did not care, and rubbed her small face on him, then said, "Ling Han mean, mean, mean! Not playing with Niu!"

"Ling Han, if you continued seclusion for a few more days, Hu Niu would probably starve to death!" Another person walked in, and it was Liu Yu Tong. She shook her head, and said, "You entered seclusion for a whole month, almost causing her to die of worry."

A month?

Ling Han was stunned. As he remembered it, only ten days had passed. Could it be that his merging of the five Elemental Origin Nuclei at the end had taken a whole twenty days?

No wonder he was so weak. After all, he hadn't eaten and drunk for so many days.

"Bring me some fruits. I need to replenish my energy, or I really will die," he said.

"You're weird, brat!" Guang Yuang heard the commotion and walked in as well. When he looked at Ling Han, it was as if he was looking at a monster.

Chapter 204: The Three Styles of Black Origin

Guang Yuan said, "If a normal martial artist in Element Gathering Tier went into seclusion for a whole month, he would have definitely died. But you brat can actually still manage to open your mouth and talk, this is really strange!" He directed a burning look at Ling Han, as if he wanted nothing more to dissect Ling Han to launch a full investigation.

In truth, Ling Han had still had eaten in the first ten days, but he did not have any food in the twenty days after that. Not even he himself had noticed the passage of time. He had merely merged the five Elemental Origin Nuclei, and when he came out of seclusion after succeeding, he realized that twenty days had passed.

At that time, he was in a very intriguing state, as Spiritual Qi was his food and helped to maintain his vitality.

After a martial artist stepped into Flower Blossoming Tier, he only needed to absorb Spiritual Qi to survive, as there would be a complete change to his level of being after breaking through to Flower Blossoming Tier and he would not have to depend on food.

Previously, he merged together the five Element Origin Nuclei to capture that evasive one, and united with the Dao of this world, which was equivalent to having temporarily raised the level of his being to this level, and so he had entered into this state ahead of time.

However, now that he was out of that state, he immediately felt hungry and weak.

Liu Yu Tong fetched some fruits, and Ling Han immediately began to eat. He had to first fill his stomach before eating any meat; otherwise, his body would not be able to take it.

Guang Yuan stared at Ling Han. He kept feeling that something

was off. He suddenly clapped his hands, then exclaimed, "That's right, why has your cultivation fallen back to the first layer of Element Gathering Tier?" Previously, this brat was obviously in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier.

When a martial artist went into seclusion, that was for the purpose of breaking through to a higher cultivation level. However, even if the attempt failed, the cultivation level should not regress even a bit, what more all the way from the ninth layer to the first.

This was practically unheard of. In the whole world of martial arts, what other person could do that?

Liu Yu Tong became worried. She looked at Ling Han closely, and indeed sensed from the aura emanating from Ling Han's Dantian that there was only one Origin Nucleus there. She instantly paled, but when she thought about the fact that Ling Han would definitely feel worse than her, she hurriedly comforted him, "It's all right. With your cultivation rate, it would only take two to three months for you to return to the ninth layer."

Ling Han smiled slightly. He naturally knew his own situation. Though there was indeed only one Origin Nucleus in his Dantian, he was a few times stronger than when he was in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier. However, he did not explain as this issue involved too much. Moreover, it was likely no one would believe him even if he did.

"That's not right!" Guang Yuan was flustered as his eyes stared at Ling Han's Dantian in concentration, and he said, "You are obviously only in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, but why is that I get such a powerful feeling from you, as if... I am facing someone in the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier!"

The first layer of Element Gathering Tier could compare to the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier? If he actually said this in public, he would definitely be smacked, as others would think that he was

muddled from too much drinking and would attempt to sober him.

However, Ling Han nodded internally. Spiritual Ocean Tier was Spiritual Ocean Tier, after all. His eyes were indeed much sharper.

"Hahaha, how could that be? My eyes must have got blurred." Guang Yuan laughed loudly, as he smacked his own head.

Pu!

Ling Han almost choked. He had just praised Guang Yuan for having sharp eyes when this guy immediately smacked his praise back into his face.

"Right, there's a silly brat that came over to look for you a few days ago. He said something about having accomplished the promise of a month. He has to go do something, then he will return to listen to your commands," Guang Yuan said.

Oh, that should be Zhu Wu Jiu. He has broken through to Gushing Spring Tier.

He said he was going to go do something? Then, he must have definitely gone to challenge Nangong Ji to a battle. He was indeed a loyal man.

Ling Han nodded internally. If it was not for the fact that Zhu Wu Jiu had this kind of personality, the most he would have done was pass on the cultivation technique of the Silver Moon Race to him, and not allow him to stay by his side—how could it be possible that anyone random could have the chance to stay by his side and be commanded by him?

After eating some more fruit, Ling Han managed to regain some energy. After a while, he began to eat a full meal. Hu Niu did not mind accompanying him in eating. As a result... she ate ten times more than what he had eaten, and this was merely what the little girl did casually to accompany him for the meal.

Ling Han excused himself, saying he intended to go to cultivate. He went alone into the small forest outside. He wanted to do a full

evaluation of his current power.

He concentrated his Origin Power in his fist, and when he had reached the limit, he suddenly punched out. The power of his punch burst out, and it actually became a solid fist that was the size of a human fist that flew forwards.

Peng, peng, peng . In front of him, over ten big trees were toppled by the attack, creating a plume of dust as they crashed onto the ground.

Ling Han drew back his fist, a hint of satisfaction on his face.

The strength of this punch was indeed comparable to the attack of a martial artist in the early period of the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier, as if the tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier was the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

'Breaking through from the Element Gathering Tier to the Gushing Spring Tier is a solid leap in strength. There would at least be a tenfold increase in strength. Then, by the time that I truly break through to Gushing Spring Tier, my strength should be able to compare to the sixth or seventh layer, what more battle prowess.

The higher the cultivation level, the more difficult it is to challenge an opponent in a higher cultivation level. However, after merging the Origin Nuclei, my ability to challenge someone stronger than me has instead increased. When I was in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, I only had about five to six Stars of battle prowess.

With the support of such great strength, then wouldn't I be able to begin cultivating a Black Grade martial arts technique?'

Ling Han was moved. If he was able to use Black Grade martial arts techniques at this point, then this would be a terrifying increase to his battle prowess.

"Let's give it a try!"

He flipped through the contents of his memories, looking for a cultivation technique that was suited to him. However, because he was aligned to all five Elements, aside from Lightning Element martial arts techniques, he could actually use any kind of martial arts techniques. Thus, there was a large variety of choices available to him.

'Then, I'll use this one. 'Three Styles of Black Origin'. This is a sword technique that that guy, the Sword Emperor, has used before. According to rumors, it was precisely when he pondered this sword technique that he came to form Sword Ray. When he came begging me for alchemical pills, I asked for this sword technique in exchange. It was only something I did on impulse at the time, but I never thought that I would truly make good use of it!'

He sat down in a cross-legged position and began to analyze this sword technique in his head.

This was a Black Grade high level martial arts technique. However, there were also superior and inferior martial arts techniques even if they were all in Black Grade high level. Some were so powerful they were actually close to Earth Grade. If there was a rank from one to ten points to grade the martial arts techniques, then the majority of Black Grade high level martial techniques would be ranked below five points, while occasionally there would be a few that were worth six or seven points.

However, the Black Origin Sword Technique was worth ten points!

This was merely a small step away from Earth Grade martial arts techniques. It could be claimed as the strongest technique for anyone who had yet to reach Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

However... the words were complicated, and very difficult to understand.

Thankfully, though Ling Han was only in Element Gathering

Tier, with regards to comprehension of martial arts, he was indeed in Heaven Tier. Perhaps it would still be a bit difficult for him to comprehend Heaven Grade martial arts techniques, but Earth Grade martial arts techniques were naturally a piece of cake to him, what more when this technique was merely close to Earth Grade.

"First style, Mysterious Three Thousand!"

Ling Han brandished his sword. His movement was obviously very rough, and did not have much force behind it. In fact, it was a bit staggering from side to side. If anyone had seen this, they would likely have fallen down in laughter.

'The Sword Emperor was indeed a maniac. To actually learn this sword technique when he was only in Element Gathering Tier!' he cursed internally. Even with his comprehension abilities of Heaven Tier, it was still a bit straining for him to cultivate this sword technique, which showed how much of a monster the Sword Emperor was.

But he was also overthinking it—how could the Sword Emperor have mastered this sword technique in a mere day?

Ling Han endlessly brandished his sword, and his sword technique became smoother and smoother. After all, this was still an ultimate elite of Heaven Tier who was practicing the sword technique. It would be stranger if this was not the result.

Xiu, xiu, xiu . He waved his sword, and a burst of Origin Power shot out, combining with the Spiritual Qi of the surroundings, and actually transformed into a few dozen sharp swords that flew forwards in an attack.

Peng!

The ground whined and shook, and the trees in front of him collapsed in patches.

Ling Han was dumbstruck. What a terrifying sword technique!

Chapter 205: Strong Enough to Defy the Natural Order

'Awesome! Really awesome!' Ling Han kept nodding. 'According to what's depicted on the sword technique, one could be considered as having reached the state of major accomplishment when one can produce a Three Thousand Blade Rain with one wave. One wave from me and I managed to produce a few dozen blades in my attack, which means I have reached around 1% of that level. Still, this power... every blade in the Blade Rain would be equivalent to a full force attack from me. Even if it was me standing against such an attack, I would only be able to block this attack by transforming the Blood Sucking Origin Gold into a shield. Otherwise, there would be no way to disperse this attack!

Merely with this one Style, as long as I too have broken through to Gushing Spring Tier, then I would be able to defeat Feng Yan in an instant!

However, that guy should still have hidden cards up his sleeve, so it would not be easy to kill him.

Additionally, this Style of the sword technique expends too much Origin Power. One wave of the sword is equivalent to producing a few dozen full force attacks. If it was not for the fact that the space in my Dantian had expanded by more or less a hundredfold, I would not be able to bear such an expense of Origin Power.

The Sword Emperor is indeed a maniac! This guy must also have swallowed a Spatial Pill when he was young. Otherwise, even if he was in Gushing Spring Tier, he would not be able to keep up such heavy use of his Origin Power either.

And now that I think about it, in my last life, aside from the Sword Emperor, the Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden also had control over endless Ye Fires so she probably must have fused with a Strange Fire, perhaps even more than one. The Setting Sun Saber

Emperor obtained a treasured saber forged from Blood Sucking Origin Gold, and was similarly terrifying in power. And there's also Ma Wei Yang, Zhi Xue Xian, and Na Lan Tu. These three were not simple characters either. They also seemed to have their own secret weapons, and I was the only one with the weakest battle prowess amongst all of them.

When I recall it now, they must have come from extremely powerful backgrounds, which was what allowed them to reach Heaven Tier at such a young age. I was the only one who depended on the effects of the alchemical pills I concocted, and managed to reach Heaven Tier even though I began later than them, and soon surpassed them by a wide margin. This land seems to be a much deeper pond than what I had thought at first.

'Never mind. 10,000 years has already passed, and all those guys should have become dust by now, so there's no point thinking about it any longer.'

Ling Han recovered his Origin Power, and began to cultivate the second Style of Black Origin Sword Technique—10,000 Techniques Return to One.

This was a powerful move, and required a certain time period to gather enough power for it. It was as if the user collected the power used in 10,000 attacks and combined them to form a single strike.

After Ling Han obtained the Black Origin Sword Technique in his last life, he merely looked it over roughly because he did not have any intention to cultivate this sword technique at all, and thus naturally did not take it to heart. However, now that he had began practicing it, he could not help but pale.

Was this really a Black Grade martial arts technique?

One style produced three thousand full-force attacks all at once, while another combined the force behind ten thousand attacks into a single strike. The force in these two styles was definitely

crazily powerful. Putting aside Earth Grade, not even Heaven Grade martial arts techniques would be this awesome!

How could this be!

If it was in Earth Grade or Heaven Grade, then how could he manage to cultivate it at this point in time?

Martial artists in Body Refining and Element Gathering Tier could only cultivate Yellow Grade martial arts techniques, whereas martial artists in Gushing Spring and Spiritual Ocean Tiers could advance one step further and cultivate Black Grade martial arts techniques. Spiritual Pedestal Tier would mean another step further, being able to cultivate Earth Grade martial arts techniques. And only when one cast off his mortal body and broke through to Flower Blossoming Tier would one meet the requirements to peep into Heaven Grade martial arts techniques.

Since that was the case, then it should not be possible for him to cultivate Earth Grade martial arts techniques now, what more Heaven Grade. However, he had been in Heaven Tier in his last life, so he clearly knew the power of Earth Grade and Heaven Grade martial arts techniques. Thus, he was naturally able to judge that the power of the Three Styles of Black Origin definitely did not place it in the Black Grade category.

When Ling Han thought back, it was no wonder the Sword Emperor had such an ugly expression as if his parents had died when he handed over this technique. He had at first thought that the Sword Emperor would not care about a Black Grade sword technique when he was already that powerful; he had never imagined these three styles of sword technique would be so terrifying.

Then... what about the Third Style?

Ling Han did not continue to cultivate 10,000 Techniques Return to One. Instead, he worked hard to analyze the Third Style. Then, he experienced a great shock.

The Third Style was called Breaking Limits, and the amount of Origin Power required for this move could practically fill an ocean.

According to his calculations, even when he had broken through to Spiritual Ocean Tier, he would still need at least a few hours to gather enough power to be able to perform this last Style.

This was definitely not used to battle your enemies.

A scene appeared in Ling Han's mind. A magnificently powerful elite warrior was faced against a gigantic protective array. He raised his sword and, after a very long time, brandished it in a strike. A flash of light from the blade washed over, and the giant array was destroyed.

That's right. Breaking Limits was used to slice open protective arrays. In front of such a powerful technique, even an ancient giant array could possibly be destroyed, and it would directly kill off the living beings hidden behind this protective array.

This Style of sword technique could no longer be judged according to Grade.

Ling Han supported his chin with his hands, and a pensive expression appeared on his face.

In his last life, he had never battled with the other six Heaven Tier elites, because he knew that his cultivation level had merely advanced through swallowing alchemical pills. His battle prowess was also the weakest and least solid of all of them, so he would naturally not bother seeking his own humiliation. However, the other six would frequently battle each other, all competing for the position of the strongest.

Even though Na Lan Tu, Zhi Xue Xian, and Ma Wei Yang were always ranked below the top three, they were still able to exchange blows with the Sword Emperor and not die, or even get serious injuries out of it. Now that he thought about it, they were practically terrifying people.

What kind of monsters were those six!?

Ling Han could not help but want to go mad. In his last life, after he had reached Heaven Tier, he had spent the majority of his time on searching for a way to break through to Shattering Void Tier. Otherwise, if he had gone to investigate the secrets of those six, he would not be at a loss like this now.

'From the broken shards of memory of the Blood Sucking Origin Gold, a terrifyingly prosperous period of martial arts could be seen. And a few dozen years or a few hundred years after my 'death', there once again appeared Heaven Tier elites by the hundred on this land. This means that I had yet to really grasp all knowledge and understanding of this world.'

Moreover, there is still such a divine object like the Black Tower, and the little girl's Spirit Base is also a very shocking existence... Interesting! Interesting!'

Ling Han stood up, and once again began to cultivate 10,000 Techniques Return to One. This was a powerful technique that could be used to battle one's enemies. If he was actually given enough time to accumulate the power necessary for this Style, then no matter how many trump cards Feng Yan had hidden up his sleeve, he still had the confidence he would be able to kill the latter with a wave of his sword.

This consumed too much Origin Power. Only after a while, Ling Han again sat down and had to swallow a few pills and absorb Spiritual Qi to replenish his energy.

'Sword Emperor, ah, Sword Emperor, though you're long dead, but if your sect still existed, I would be interested to take a look around there. What kind of place could the 'Heaven's Sword Sect' be, to actually possess such a terrifying martial arts technique?'

He practiced for a while, then stopped to rest, then began practicing again, and very soon, the day passed.

Ling Han was still mostly concentrating his efforts on advancing to a higher cultivation level now. Only when he broke through to Gushing Spring Tier would he be able to understand the secrets of the Black Tower.

Thankfully, this would only require about half a month's time.

That's right, though he was only left with one gigantic Origin Nucleus, the time needed to strengthen this Origin Nucleus as far as it could go was threefold the time he had spent previously.

On the next day, Liu Yu Tong once again gracefully arrived.

"Let me tell you a piece of good news! Feng Yan has left the Academy. It seems he's gone to ask for some kind of Spiritual Medicine that will allow Feng Luo's arms to be as good as new," she said.

Ling Han was dumbfounded. Could this Feng Luo really be born in the Year of the Cockroach or something like that?

In the past, he thrashed and smacked him so much that he had even lost his whole mouth of teeth. However, not long after, he would go back to acting all high and mighty. Now, he had even chopped off his arms, and Feng Luo still had the chance to recover. F***.

"Has his arms been reattached now?"

"En, they were reattached, but they're not very nimble. There is no way for him to exert any strength through his arms, and that's why Feng Yan has gone off to seek a Spiritual Medicine to help him recover," Liu Yu Tong said.

This was indeed a very dutiful elder brother.

Peng, peng, peng . A knocking was heard from the doors, and Hu Niu ran over to open them. Soon, she came back leading a person behind her. It was Zhu Wu Jiu.

"I broke through to Gushing Spring Tier seven days ago, and

fulfilled the promise I made with you. However, from the looks of things now, I am not able to become your follower. I can only repay you in my next life!" Zhu Wu Jiu said.

"Why?" Ling Han asked.

"I sought Nangong Ji out for a challenge and crippled his Dantian. Soon, the Academy will have me captured. Even if I am not sentenced to death, my cultivation will still be crippled." Zhu Wu Jiu said calmly, no hint of fear or regret on his face at all.

Chapter 206: Arrest

Ling Han laughed, and said, "Just a small thing like that?"

A small thing like that?

Putting aside the issue of Nangong Ji's identity, the rules of the Academy clearly stated that spars were acceptable, but crippling injuries and deadly attacks were strictly forbidden. Anyone who broke the rules would be harshly punished. Additionally, there was the issue of Nangong Ji's identity. He was the young master of a middle-class clan, and furthermore had an elder brother who was a True Disciple. How could the Nangong Clan simply let the matter go?

Zhu Wu Jiu was a very solitary character. Anyways, he was all alone with no family. If they wanted his life, they were free to claim it. Either way, he had already crippled Nangong Ji.

For a martial artist, crippling his cultivation was no better than killing him directly, especially in those bigger clans. The status of a crippled martial artist would fall dramatically in his own clan, and anyone was free to come over and give him another kick while he was down. That strong disparity in his treatment would be enough to cause anyone to commit suicide.

Obviously, Zhu Wu Jiu had the ability to kill Nangong Ji. Yet he had only crippled the latter's cultivation to allow Nangong Ji to experience that colossal disparity, and give him a worse punishment.

"Just stay here for now, and I'll see who dares to come capture you," Ling Han said calmly.

What a boastful tone. When the people sent from the Discipline Committee of the Academy arrived, would you really dare to jump out? So what if you did dare to jump out? For a mere martial artist in Element Gathering Tier, wasn't that merely overrating yourself

and attempting to do the impossible?

But when he thought about it, Ling Han was well-intentioned, so Zhu Wu Jiu nodded, and said, "Thank you, but I was the one who caused this trouble, so I will definitely not drag you into it!"

Ling Han merely smiled. If he continued to say anything more, it was likely Zhu Wu Jiu would think that he was bragging. He had no intention to be looked down upon by a descendant of the Silver Moon Race.

"Brat, a lot of people are here!" Guang Yuan arrived in a leap. He had heard the commotion and recalled the fact that he was now Ling Han's bodyguard, and so naturally came to inform him and stood on one side to watch.

"They're here to arrest me," Zhu Wu Jiu said calmly. He had already fulfilled his heart's desire, so he was absolutely unconcerned about whether he lived or died anymore.

"That's right. Here to capture you!" A group of ten walked in. The one in the lead was a young man who looked to be in his mid-twenties, and there was arrogance and rage in his expression.

The Captain of Team Four of the Discipline Committee, Nangong Xing. He was also Nangong Ji's elder brother, and in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier!

He was of course furious. Zhu Wu Jiu actually dared to cripple his younger brother's Dantian. This was a challenge to the authority of the Nangong Clan and also a harsh slap to his face, making him feel the urge to commit murder.

"Since you already know, are you not going to submit yourself to be arrested?" Nangong Xing asked coldly. He threw a challenging look at Ling Han.

He was naturally defiant. A mere minor character in Element Gathering Tier was actually able to cause waves in the Academy and become a famous person in Hu Yang Academy; also, according

to rumors, even the two extreme beauties, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan, were close to him.

His eyes had turned red from feeling extreme jealousy!

In his eyes, Ling Han had merely gotten a bout of **** good fortune, and had merely obtained the prestige he had now because of Feng Yan. Moreover, if it was not the fact that he was so extremely fortunate and was rescued by the Headmaster of the Alchemy Department who had so coincidentally happened to pass by, this guy would have long been torn to pieces by Feng Yan.

He looked at Ling Han, and a cold smile appeared on his lips as he said, "Ling Han, are you going to cover for this criminal?"

"This has nothing to do with Ling Han!" Zhu Wu Jiu stepped out. It was because of Ling Han's help that he had managed to surpass Nangong Ji's cultivation level and get his vengeance. It was already enough that he could not repay Ling Han's kindness, so how could he allow Ling Han to be dragged down by him into this matter?

"You're sensible." Nangong Xing humped. If Ling Han dared to show off at this time, he would not mind arresting one more person.

...Aren't you very mighty? Then I'll arrest you and go one round in the Academy, and let's see if you still have any face left to see anyone.

"Apprehend him and drag him back!" Nangong Xing waved his hand.

Immediately, two people walked towards Zhu Wu Jiu. One of them had a chain in his hands. This was forged from Black Blood Iron. Once a person was chained by this chain, then even an elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier would not be able to escape.

"Hold on!" Ling Han stepped out and stretched out a hand to block their advance. He said, "This is one of mine. You people want to capture him, but have you gotten my approval yet?"

"Hahaha!" Nangong Xing was delighted. Ling Han actually wanted to interfere; then that was great. He was just being troubled over having no excuse to do anything to Ling Han, and this brat actually delivered himself to be stamped on.

"Ling Han, how dare you!" he shouted in rebuke. "This is a criminal that the Academy has commanded to be arrested!"

"Wrong!" Ling Han held up and finger and waved it from left to right. "Whether it is a crime or not, he should still undergo a trial to be judged. Yet you keep saying 'criminal' here and there. Does that mean you're above the Academy? From how I look at it, you're the one who is extremely bold."

Nangong Xing could not help but be at a loss for words. Then, he said in anger and embarrassment, "Ling Han, you are merely twisting the facts! I am commanded to make the arrest, and if you dare to interfere, I will apprehend you as well!"

"Hehe. If anyone dares to touch one of my people, I would not mind breaking his legs." Ling Han's eyes swept over the whole group, and he grinned. "If you're not scared, you all can give it a try, but don't say I didn't warn you!"

The expressions on the members of the Discipline Committee all changed. When they thought about how he had sliced off Feng Luo's arms... according to the Academy regulations, this was a crime in no way lighter than Zhu Wu Jiu crippling Nangong Ji's cultivation.

But this guy was still completely safe and unharmed. Even Feng Yan, who was very influential at this time, seemed to be unable to do anything against him, so no one dared to think of his threats as mere empty words.

When he saw the fearful expressions of his subordinates, Nangong Xing could not help but feel enraged and humiliated, and said, "This is the Hu Yang Academy, who would dare to be above the Academy?"

When they heard these words, quite a number of people rolled their eyes secretly.

There were indeed none who dared in the past. But just some time ago, Feng Luo had already broken the rules, and expelled Li Hao for no reason whatsoever. Then, Ling Han, who had sliced off Feng Luo's arms, was not punished at all. When one now talked about the Academy rules, it was always with a tone of sarcasm...

"Young Master Han, I don't want to involve you," Zhu Wu Jiu said as he turned back to face Ling Han. He would accept Ling Han's good intentions, but could not bear to have him dragged into this matter for his sake.

"Nonsense. If you want to battle to death for my sake in future, there would be a lot of opportunities for you to do so. But now, be quiet and stand behind me obediently." Ling Han waved him off, and turned to look at Nangong Xing. "I do not welcome outsiders here. Would you like to leave on your own, or would you like me to toss you all out?"

"Ling Han, don't be so conceited!" Nangong Xing strode forwards, and his sword left its sheath. He stared at Ling Han for a moment, then said with a smirk, "You've gone mad from cultivation, haven't you? Your cultivation actually dropped to the first layer of Element Gathering Tier? With such little ability, you still dare to be so insolent in front of me? Just you watch as I force you all into submission with a single move!"

Zhu Wu Jiu gritted his teeth and stepped in front of Ling Han. He also drew his sword, and said, "Nangong Xing, I can go with you. This matter has nothing to do with Young Master Han. Don't force me to make a move!"

Nangong Xing hesitated slightly. Zhu Wu Jiu was also in Gushing Spring Tier. Though his ability was beneath his own, but if he really forced the former into desperate straits, then even if he managed to apprehend him successfully, he would have to pay a

heavy price.

He was only jealous of Ling Han, which was why he wanted to embarrass him, but if the price for such an act was that he would suffer heavy injuries? He was not as foolish as that.

"All right!" He nodded.

"Little Jiu Jiu, when did it start that you were the one to make decisions around here? Just stand at one side!" Ling Han clapped a hand onto Zhu Wu Jiu's shoulder and pulled him back. His characteristic of covering for his own people was fully activated. He waved Nangong Xing off, and said, "Get lost quickly. Don't say I'm bullying you. Find someone stronger."

'F***!' Nangong Xing was so angry his whole face was twisted.

Chapter 207: Blind

He was merely in the first layer of Element Gathering, and actually dared to be so arrogant?

Did he think that just because he had exchanged a few moves with Feng Yan, he was already in Gushing Spring Tier?

Nangong Xing did not believe that in the slightest. He only thought it was merely those who had witnessed the scene had exaggerated what they had seen and the rumors had increasingly distorted the truth, which had led to such a preposterous idea.

Element Gathering Tier managing to oppose Gushing Spring Tier? Pei!

Nangong Xing said icily, "Since that is the case, then don't blame me for being forceful! You are protecting a criminal that the Academy has issued a warrant for, so your crime is the same. I am the Captain of Team Four of the Discipline Committee, and am under the command to make the arrest. If anyone dares to stop me, I have the special privilege to kill all in my way."

Liu Yu Tong stepped out. She thought that Ling Han had failed in his attempt to break through and his cultivation level had regressed back to the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, so how could she simply watch as Ling Han went to battle against an elite martial artist in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier?

Ling Han laughed, and pulled her to one side. He said with a smile, "Didn't you see that even Big Brother Guang did not step out? What are you in such a rush for? I can easily take care of such a minor character."

"That's right. You can just hand over such a minor character to the brat," Guang Yuan said casually. "There's something a little strange about this brat... no, something very strange!" He kept feeling that there was something off about Ling Han. Though he

did indeed only have one Origin Nucleus, but for some reason, the feeling he sensed from Ling Han had far surpassed Element Gathering Tier.

Hearing him say so, Liu Yu Tong finally calmed down slightly and obediently stepped to one side. She believed that with a powerful martial artist in Spiritual Ocean Tier here, even if Ling Han did come to be in any danger, Guang Yuan would still be able to save him in time.

Zhu Wu Jiu had still kept his head raised high. One should be responsible for what he had done. Yet he was once again flung to one side with a smack from Ling Han, and stared at Ling Han sullenly.

"An underling like you is really blind. Can't you see that I'm going to show off my might? Do you want to snatch a chance to show off like this from me! Just look at Big Brother Guang Yuan, he's much smarter," Ling Han berated jokingly.

"Pei!" Guang Yuan immediately spat in scorn. He only felt it was beneath him to make a move. A junior merely in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier... one finger from him would be enough to force him into submission. But from Ling Han's words, this lack of action from him was supposedly him being obedient, making him irritated.

"Are you done with your chit-chat?!" Nangong Xing asked through his gritted teeth. This was the Hu Yang Academy and the Discipline Committee had the highest authority here, yet these two people actually dared to banter and joke around in front of him. That was disregarding and disrespecting him too much, wasn't it?

"Are you in such a rush to get thrashed? All right, come on then!" Ling Han crooked his finger.

"Ling Han, this had nothing to do with you in the first place!" Nangong Xing said darkly. "But you are the one who insists on being such a busybody! People like you usually die very quickly!"

"Is that any of your business?" Ling Han gave him the middle finger.

"F***!" Nangong Xing could not hold himself back anymore. He suddenly leaped forwards and struck with a stab. The cold light of the sword flickered like lightning, shooting towards Ling Han's chest.

Ling Han smiled calmly. He gave a casual grab, and it was as if Nangong Xing was cooperating with him as the blade of his sword was successfully caught in Ling Han's hand.

"Yi?"

Everyone was astonished. With Nangong Xing's ability in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier, his sword should be like a lightning strike. Ling Han should not be able to even see its trajectory, what more grab it with his bare hand. However, what use was there for him to grab onto it? The power of the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier was instilled into the sword, and he only needed to give it a light tremble and he would be able to slice off Ling Han's fingers.

"You are looking for death!" Indeed, Nangong Xing humped coldly, and was just about to twist his sword.

But his expression immediately changed, because it was as if the sword in his hand was firmly rooted in Ling Han's hand; no matter how much strength he used, it did not move in the slightest.

How could that be!?

He was merely in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, how could he possibly have such terrifying strength?

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "Let me give you a warning. Let go of your sword to avoid a little bit of suffering."

"Heng, if the sword exists, so does the swordsman. If the sword dies, so does the— ah!" Nangong Xing was still trying to be brave and say a few beautiful words when he suddenly released a shrill

scream, and hurriedly let go. There was actually a patch of bright red on his palm visible, as if he had burnt his palm.

This was because Ling Han had made use of his Strange Fire, and had transmitted the high heat through the blade. Thankfully, it had passed through the blade. Otherwise, if he was directly burnt by the Strange Fire, his whole palm may be burnt into charcoal.

Nangong Xing glanced around, and everyone was looking at him strangely, causing him to flush uncontrollably. He stared at Ling Han, and asked, "Ling Han, do you insist on shielding this person?"

"Is there something wrong with your ability to understand? He is my lackey, and is under my protection. If you want to challenge him, I will not interfere. But if you intend to use some kind of unjust means to bully my lackey, then don't blame me for being aggressive!" Ling Han said.

"This person has crippled my brother. Should he not be punished by the Academy?" Nangong Xing said sharply.

"That only means that your brother got his just desserts. I believe that you yourself should be aware of the enmity between him and Nangong Ji. If you want to get your revenge, that's fine. Zhu Wu Jiu can accept your challenge. Yet you want to use your connections as an intimidation tactic? Get lost!" Ling Han said coldly.

"Ling Han, what you're doing now is opposing the Hu Yang Academy!" Nangong Xing spat out word by word, his face ashen.

Ling Han shrugged, and said, "So what if I am? Anyways, even if more elites come, there would still be Big Brother Guang here."

"Hey, hey, hey. When did I say I wanted to help you oppose the elites of Hu Yang Academy?" Guang Yuan waved his hands hurriedly.

"Big Brother Guang Yuan is really modest. Isn't it just a small matter of stretching out a hand for you!" Ling Han said with a

smile.

However, Guang Yuan kept shaking his head in refusal. The Hu Yang Academy had powerful martial artists of Spiritual Pedestal Tier in their ranks. Only if he had gone crazy would he dare to step out to oppose this kind of existence.

Yet Nangong Xing still knew that he was not able to apprehend Zhu Wu Jiu at this moment, so he said hatefully, "This matter will not be settled so easily. Ling Han, even if the Academy does not pursue the matter, my Nangong Clan will not give up!"

"Are you threatening me?" Ling Han's eyes frosted over.

"So what if I am?"

"The thing I hate most is being threatened!" Ling Han walked towards Nangong Xing. "Against such people, my usual procedure is to thrash them till they submit."

"You may be too confident in yourself!" Nangong Xing smirked. "I don't know what means you used just now, but after I have experienced a loss, I will not fall to the same trick a second time."

"Is that right?" Ling Han drew his sword. He could take advantage of this chance to try out the power of the Black Origin Sword Technique. Hopefully, he could control his power and avoid crippling Nangong Xing with a single strike.

"Give me a sword!" Nangong Xing stretched out a hand to one side, and immediately someone drew his own sword and handed it over to him. With a flourish of the sword, he said, "Then let me show you the might of the Seven Wonder Sword Technique of my Nangong Clan!"

Ling Han laughed, and held his sword level. The tip of the blade was slightly lowered, and suddenly, one wave of power after another spread out from the tip, as if a pebble had been cast into a lake, creating ripples.

The waves spread out, and Guang Yuang who had been wearing

an absent-minded expression immediately became solemn. Then his expression changed dramatically, and he looked extremely shocked.

He had not seen the real might of this sword technique yet, but just looking at the stance, he experienced the feeling as if a storm was coming. If this technique was used, it would definitely be earth-shattering and incomparably terrifying.

What kind of sword technique could this be, and how could it actually appear in the hands of a martial artist in Element Gathering Tier?

A layer of cold sweat immediately appeared on Nangong Xing's face, and beads of sweat continuously dripped down his face. His body was trembling, as if he was about to fall apart.

Chapter 208: Can Ye

The opponent was already subdued without unleashing the attack.

Nangong Xing didn't dare to move a single bit. He felt as though if he were to move slightly, it would incite an attack like a thunderstorm from his opponent, and he definitely wouldn't be able to block it.

This perception of it made him completely hopeless.

His opponent was only a mere Element Gathering Tier, but how could he pressure him so utterly...?

Ling Han unleashed his sword—with a slash, nine swords made of Origin energy shot up into the air like the rising sun, radiating and harsh to the eyes.

Nangong Xing's body was instantly struck flying and he fell onto the ground with a thud, blood oozing out from his chest.

Guang Yuan's eyes opened wide—he clearly saw the strike this time. Ling Han's attack sent out nine sword lights, and each sword light condensed from spiritual qi into a sword of Origin energy. This was a bit surprising, but it wasn't unacceptable; what was surprising was that the power of each sword of origin power reached the level of Ling Han's full-strength attack.

In other words, in that instant, it was equivalent to nine Ling Hans attacking Nangong Xing. How could Nangong Xing block it?

He couldn't help but think... if it were him, how would he fend off this attack? The answer surprised him—he could only rely on power that far surpassed Ling Han's and send Ling Han flying with attacks covering a large area so as to avoid confronting the attack head on.

In short, at the same tier, he wouldn't be able to block this strike.

How could it be so terrifying?

"Cough! Cough!" Nangong Xing fell onto the ground, spitting out blood continuously. Ling Han already held back in his attack, but it still heavily injured him.

The others were speechless; was this really the cultivation of first layer of the Element Gathering Tier? The first layer of the Element Gathering Tier could be this fierce?

Ling Han sheathed his sword, and said dismissively, "Take him away, don't let him lie here like an eyesore!"

Nangong Xing let out a hacking cough, and another mouthful of fresh blood came out. So he didn't even count as an opponent in Ling Han's eyes. As he was carried away by the masses, his gaze was fixed on Ling Han.

'This definitely won't be over so easily, it definitely won't!'

"Young Master Han..." Zhu Wu Jiu didn't know what to say. Although he was moved that Ling Han shielded him, he saw it as pointless; how could an Element Gathering Tier martial artist go against Hu Yang Academy?

He certainly disobeyed the academy's rules.

"If you exploited your strength to act violently, then I obviously wouldn't help you." Ling Han looked at him, and continued in a dignified tone, "But Nangong Ji deserved to be punished, so I support you on this case."

Zhu Wu Jiu grit his teeth. If the academy sought someone to blame, he would definitely take on all the charges, and not involve Ling Han.

Guang Yuan watched in amusement. According to his previous impression, Ling Han was just a nouveau riche that brandished money to such extreme degrees that Earth and Water Faction could only lower their head. Now, it appeared that this guy was also hotheaded, daring to confront Hu Yang academy head on.

Could Earth and Water Faction even compare to Hu Yang Academy?

However, this guy seemed to also have a strong network—even the Imperial Guards had to give him face; it was not as though he were completely reckless.

He couldn't help but let out a smile. This youngster was interesting, and he wanted to see how Ling Han would handle things hereafter.

Hmm?

Ling Han suddenly turned his head and looked far away. A youngster approached, his left shoulder empty, obviously missing a limb. In Hu Yang academy, there were only two people who had lost their left arm: Feng Luo, and... Can Ye!

However, Feng Luo was missing his right arm. The person here still had a perfectly fine right arm, so there was only one possibility.

One of Hu Yang Academy's three great core disciples, Can Ye, who Lian Guang Zu personally instructed.

Teacher and master, that was a completely different concept.

Teachers took the academy's salary, instructed the students' cultivation, and taught what was universal to the academy. What about a master? It was one who imparted with great care their entire life's leanings; the intimacy of such a relationship was like that of father and son.

Lian Guang Zu had only one disciple, and that was Can Ye, a crippled youngster.

Can Ye approached slowly, carrying a long saber on his back. His gaze was sharp like an exceptional saber unsheathed, which gave the feeling that even if a large mountain blocked his path, he would be able to split it open.

"He has the presence of a master!" Guang Yuan said surprisingly. Can Ye's cultivation level was not worth mentioning, but that presence somewhat moved him.

Ling Han also nodded. He was optimistic about this youngster who had the potential to become a saber master; this feeling was something he felt from Sword Emperor and Twilight Saber Emperor. But Can Ye was still too inexperienced, showing only the first signs of such a possibility.

"That attack just now, it's strong!" Can Ye looked at Ling Han with an intense urge to fight.

"You want to spar?" Ling Han broke into a wide grin. 'This guy's not bad.' He already had the thought of taking him under his wing.

Can Ye pondered, then said, "Against that move, I'm only ten percent confident of neutralizing it." He paused, and then said, "If I study the method of neutralization by pondering it for three days, I would have the assurance of thirty percent."

He was quite honest.

"Then let us battle three days later?" Ling Han said with a smile.

Can Ye shook his head, and said, "Your cultivation level is too weak, I can split you in two with one strike; you have simply have no chance to unleash your sword."

This was quite honest, but too honest that it was uncomfortable to hear.

Ling Han laughed mischievously, then said, "Let's make a bet!"

"Bet what?" Can Ye asked.

"Let's fight, and if you can't beat me, then you'll be my sidekick," Ling Han said.

"You won't suffice as my opponent, you're only going to be cut down by a single slash," Can Ye said coldly but with surety, emotionless like a saber.

"That may not be." Ling Han laughed. "Let's fight, and if I get killed by you, then that's my fate; if I don't die, then you'll be my sidekick."

Can Ye made him think of Twilight Saber Emperor. Perhaps, one day, this guy really might become the second saber emperor.

Can Ye pondered it, then said, "Whenever I attack, I never hold back, and you really will die."

"I'm not afraid of death, so what are you afraid of?" Ling Han cracked a smile. "Come, come, come, and submit as my sidekick."

Can Ye looked confusedly at Ling Han. No matter how he looked, his opponent had no sliver of a chance to survive. He was naturally indifferent, not only neglecting social intercourse, but also life. In his eyes, a person's life was no different than a dog's life.

Since that was so, he spoke no more, and unleashed his saber.

With the long saber in hand, his temperament instantly changed drastically—from a cold crippled youngster into a reaper. Those cold eyes and the imposing murderous spirit shocked even Guang Yuan a little as the latter involuntarily cracked his fingers, feeling an impulse to kill this youngster as he felt danger.

"Ling Han!" Liu Yu Tong called out lightly of nervousness.

Hu Niu's eyes shone brightly. Can Ye's murderous spirit made her feel a wisp of intimacy, but when she found that this murderous spirit was directed at Ling Han, the little girl instantly erupted fiercely, growling at Can Ye.

"Niu Niu, this opponent is mine!" Ling Han smiled, and brandished his sword with a move reminiscent of a flower, his expression solemn.

Can Ye was certainly strong, even he had to be cautious.

Chapter 209: Getting an Underling

It was as if the killing intent emanating from Can Ye had solidified. Even a person with a strong will would shiver at this feeling. Yet his eyes were still very clear, as if they were the eyes of a pure infant, and somehow, these two contradicting auras were merged into one.

That was because he was a born saber wielder. He drew his saber merely to defeat all opponents in front of him, in order to reach the highest point on the path of the saber.

Ling Han only felt such an aura on the Setting Sword Saber Emperor before.

This did not mean that Can Ye was definitely able to become the second Setting Sun Saber Emperor, but he at least had the potential to—if he was able to develop just like how the Setting Sun Saber Emperor had developed. But if he stayed for his whole life in Rain Country, then Spiritual Pedestal Tier would definitely be the highest point he could reach.

Ling Han moved his sword very slowly, and because he was resisting the killing intent exuding from Can Ye, beads of sweat rolled down his forehead uncontrollably.

If they fought on the same level, then it was unknown which one of them would win, what more when Ling Han had a much lower cultivation level than his opponent. So, naturally, he was under extreme pressure. But the more pressure he felt, the brighter Ling Han's eyes became, as if his gaze could shoot through the skies.

These two maniacs, monsters! Guang Yuan was secretly dumbstruck. A thought rose up in his mind—if he suppressed his cultivation level to the same level that these two people were on, he would definitely not have the courage to battle with either one of them.

Merely the aura they exuded was enough to make anyone lose hope.

Can Ye never spoke falsehoods. Xiu , and he had made his move. He slashed out with his saber, and the cold light of the saber swept towards Ling Han like water. Indeed, he would not be giving Ling Han any chance to gather power and use that sword style he had seen just now.

In his eyes, as long as anyone forced him to draw his saber, then that was an enemy of his, and he was the type to use full effort against his enemies, completely destroying them.

And that meant death.

Though his eyes were still clear, with no hint of killing intent, the saber he had slashed out was like the God of Death who had raised his sickle, ready to harvest a human life.

Indeed, Ling Han did not continue to use that move, because he would be sliced in half before his move was even one third complete and his blood would spill in all directions! But this was what he had expected. He stretched open his left hand, and a black light gushed out to actually become a screen in front of him. Then, it wrapped around his whole body to become a ball.

Peng !

This slash hit its target, but the black-colored ball was extremely sturdy and it was not sliced open. However, due to the powerful shockwave, the ball—and Ling Han who was still inside—was also flung upwards.

Xiu , the ball actually transformed in midair. It quickly stretched open and actually became a large umbrella, instantly slowing down the speed at which Ling Han was dropping to the ground.

Like a deity, Ling Han slowly floated down from the air and firmly stood on the ground. The black-colored gigantic umbrella was instantly withdrawn and became a bangle that wrapped

around his wrist.

With a cough, Ling Han still spat out a mouthful of blood. Though he had used the Blood Sucking Origin Gold to cleverly disperse the force behind this attack, he had still suffered a heavy attack when the slash fell on him, causing his internal organs to jolt, which was a very horrible feeling.

In comparison, Can Ye was really much more powerful. Previously, one strike from Ling Han was enough to defeat Nangong Xing, but now he was not able to even take a single slash from Can Ye... if he had merely depended on his own power.

Though Can Ye's cultivation level was higher, and had reached the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, it could be easily seen the level of talent that this young man had in the way of the saber.

There was such a way too?

Guang Yuan and Liu Yu Tong were both staring with wide eyes. Even with their sharp eyes, they were still unable to deduce what means Ling Han had used to disperse this attack of Can Ye's. What kind of Spiritual Tool was that? It looked very awesome.

Ling Han quickly recovered. He had the Body of Dead Tree, and furthermore, with the Indestructible Heaven Scroll circulating in his body, he would be able to recover as long as he was not dead—no matter how serious his injuries were. He smiled softly, and asked, "Little Lackey Can Ye, are we going to continue?"

Can Ye stood with his saber in hand, but his eyes were closed. After pondering for a moment, he opened his eyes, shook his head, and said, "No, I am not able to unravel that move of yours just now."

Though he himself said he was not able to unravel the move, his expression was extremely calm. It was as if he would experience no joy from winning—nor sadness from losing—and possessed a terrifying calmness about him.

"Then you'll be my lackey from now onwards," Ling Han said with a smile. Not bad, not bad. He managed to get a lackey with boundless future prospects. He really should drink some wine to celebrate.

Can Ye thought for a moment, then said, "When I am able to unravel that defensive move of yours, I will once again challenge you. If you win, I will continue to listen to your commands. If not... you will lose your life."

"That's fair!" Ling Han grinned.

Can Ye nodded, and said, "Then I'll leave first. If there's anything, just blow this whistle, and I will rush over at the first instant." He waved his hand, and tossed a whistle over to Ling Han.

Ling Han caught it, and could not help but look at him strangely —were you born in the Year of the Dog? You can actually be summoned with a whistle like a dog?

"Brat, you're really sly, to actually use such a shameless method to deceive a genius of saber arts!" After Can Ye had left, Guang Yuan immediately jumped out and exclaimed at Ling Han.

Ling Han pushed him aside and said, "What do you mean by deceive? Deceive your sister! I had used real power to subdue that brat, but if you're not convinced—"

Guang Yuan laughed, and said, "So what if I am not convinced? Unless you want to fight with me and force me into submission?"

"If you're not convinced, the door is there. Just go out and turn right. Godspeed, and I won't bother to see you out," Ling Han said lazily.

Instantly, Guang Yuan lost all the wind in his sails. He still had to depend on Ling Han to guide him in his cultivation of the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, what more when the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll he had obtained was not the complete version. He still

needed Ling Han to help him to fill in the blank spaces for him. If he really went out and turned right, then everything would be gone.

"Hey, I am a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, after all. Shouldn't you respect me a bit more?" he said faintly.

Ling Han immediately felt an urge to throw up, and said, "Big Brother Guang, don't be so sickening!"

Guang Yuan laughed loudly. He was not a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist from one of the Clans but a lone cultivator, so he knew when to retreat and when to advance, and was definitely not the type to place his pride over everything else. If it had been one of the Spiritual Ocean Tier elites from one of the Clans, they would have definitely left in a huff after being forced by Ling Han like that just now.

Then he sighed, and said, "That brat just now was really not bad. He's a natural genius of martial arts. Unfortunately, he is a saber wielder. If he wasn't, I would really consider taking him in as my disciple."

"Thank goodness he is not an expert in using his fists. If you really did take him in as a disciple, you would have definitely been beaten into pulp by Lian Guang Zu." Ling Han snickered.

Guang Yuan was shocked, and asked, "That brat is Lian Guang Zu's personal disciple?"

"Exactly."

Guang Yuan was at a loss for a moment, before he suddenly jumped up and moved to strangle Ling Han. "You stupidly bold guy! You actually deceived Master Lian's personal disciple into becoming your underling. If this was found out by Master Lian, he would definitely kill you, and even I will be dragged into the matter!"

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "That's all right. At that time,

I will definitely shove all the blame onto Big Brother Guang Yuan. Who would believe that I, who is merely in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, would have the ability to accomplish such a feat?"

Guang Yuan only felt like he wanted to raise his head and moan to the heavens. He felt like he had never had the upper hand in his exchanges with Ling Han. On the other hand, he was always led around by the nose by Ling Han. He wore a strange expression, and asked, "Are you really in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier?"

"Exactly." Ling Han smiled slightly.

"F***, if I believed your words, then I'd be a dumb pig!" Guang Yuan exclaimed as he spat on the ground.

Chapter 210: Devil Sky Mystery Realm

One origin nucleus had to be the first level of Element Gathering Tier, no matter where one was.

However, only Ling Han himself knew just how large the origin nucleus within his Dantian was, and how shockingly fast it churned; the nucleus provided Origin power far surpassing that of ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, even comparable to that of first layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

"That boy just now is certainly a genius martial artist, but you kid are just a freak of a martial artist!" Guang Yuan concluded.

Ling Han shrugged, but didn't deny it... a Heaven Tier spirit entered this body, of course he's bound to be a freak.

"Also, this lord has no younger sister, so stop it with the 'your sister' crap," Guan Yuan said casually.

"Pff." Ling Han burst into laughter and patted Guang Yuan on the shoulder, then said, "Who would've thought old brother Guang had such a sense of humor. Not bad, not bad, you've got a good mentality, which'll be more suitable for breaking through to higher tiers."

Guang Yuan guffawed, feeling as though his mind was really much younger. However, only after Ling Han turned to enter the room did he realize that he and Ling Han were really harmonious, as if the two had no difference in status.

One had to know the rigidity of the tiers in the martial arts world —even a middle stage Element Gathering Tier and an early stage Element Gathering Tier had a chasm between them; moreover, the two in question were separated by two great tiers, how could they get along as equals?

For example, earlier, when Ling Han patted his shoulder... not to mention an Element Gathering Tier, even if an early stage

Spiritual Ocean Tier person did that, it would've still enraged him and he'd send the person flying with a slap... and he wouldn't even care about the aftermath, the life and death of the miserable guy would be based on their luck.

He unexpectedly let Ling Han pat his shoulder and had a good talk with him, as if he really treated Ling Han as an equal.

"This kid's got a weird charisma that made me involuntarily forget his age and tier in cultivation." Guang Yuan concluded, and then muttered, "In short, this guy's a monster!"

This feeling wasn't Guang Yuan's alone; the Eldest Imperial Prince and the Third Imperial Prince who had royal blood and cultivation in far higher tiers still referred to Ling Han as brother, didn't they? Admittedly, Ling Han's background was in play, but his charisma was also affecting the two princes, earning their respect from the bottom of their hearts.

Nangong Xing was beaten, and the Discipline Committee was obstructed. This was supposed to be a big incident, but it involved Ling Han, so it turned from a big incident into a small one. No one brought up seizing Zhu Wu Jiu again, and of course no one said anything about punishing Ling Han.

However, this was only a tacit state of affairs. Zhu Wu Jiu was fine if he stayed near Ling Han or the latter's quarters, but once he left or became isolated, then he'd definitely face the Discipline Committee's arrest.

After all was said and done, this was only to give Ling Han face.

A student could receive such face, how shocking was that?

Zhu Wu Jiu and Guang Yuan settled in the courtyard. First of all, they were both men; second of all, Guang Yuan kept watch, so the Discipline Committee wouldn't dare act rashly; third of all, well, Guang Yuan could give some pointers to Zhu Wu Jiu, saving Ling Han some work.

This caused Guang Yuan to bawl in anger; he felt that when he became Ling Han's underling, he only had to be a bodyguard, but why was he now instructing someone's cultivation? In the future, could he be forced to raise kids?

Two days later, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan hurried over.

Just from the look of the two girls' expressions, something big definitely happened.

"Devil Sky Mystery Realm opened!" the two girls said at the same time. Finding that they synchronized, they inevitably shot a glare at each other.

"What Devil Sky Mystery Realm?" Ling Han looked confused.

"Mighty men exist who can sever the area we live by supreme mystical arts, forming a small world that is isolated from the normal world; we call it mystery realm," Liu Yu Tong explained. She knew that Ling Han came from a small place, Gray Cloud Town; even though he was an alchemy genius, he definitely didn't understand anything about mystery realms.

Ling Han obviously knew what mystery realms are, but he had never heard of Devil Sky Mystery Realm. However, with his abilities in the previous life, he was still unable to separate a part of the world to form a smaller world; therefore, this was definitely only possible for a mighty Shattering Void Tier.

Unfortunately, even though he entered many historic sites, he never had a chance to enter a mystery realm.

It was rumored—a mere rumor—that Heaven's Sword Sect Sword Emperor belonged to was located in such a mystery realm!

"Devil Sky Mystery Realm is an extremely large mystery realm that is hidden in Rain Country and Fire Country and so on within the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. It's possible that the entire mystery realm is comparable to Rain Country's territory in size. It is layered in a mysterious way, hidden in the world we live in." Liu

Si Chan also started to explain, her eyes filled with utter admiration.

This was a supreme handiwork that could separate a large space from the real world, layer it, and hide it. The thought of it was bewildering.

"Devil Sky Mystery Realm's original master died long ago, so the mystery realm isn't controlled by anyone. After a certain amount of time, a 'door' will appear that will accept people." Liu Yu Tong followed hand in hand with Li Si Chan, unexpectedly well coordinated.

"The opening time is not fixed. Sometimes it appears once in several hundred years, and sometimes it appears once every few decades," Li Si Chan said. "The last time Devil Sky Mystery Realm opened was three hundred years ago."

"Devil Sky Mystery Realm has a decent amount of ancient arts and skills, and with enough luck, one may find them. It's said the family that started the Nine Nations of the Desolate North was the first to enter Devil Sky Mystery Realm, and they obtained large amounts of arts and skills; subsequently, they quickly surpassed others, rebuilding the desolate north rampant with monsters into one that was suitable for humans to live in."

"It is indeed so, I have seen my family's historic records with such a written account."

"There's more, inside the mystery realm there are godly pills. Someone entered as a normal Element Gathering Tier, but came out as a shocking Spiritual Pedestal Tier!"

"Inside Devil Sky Mystery Realm wait great opportunities!" Both girls concluded at last.

"But!" Liu Yu Tong immediately continued, "Devil Sky Mystery Realm is not just about opportunities; it's rumored that when the original master of the mystery realm died, the master's body was

invaded by evil qi, turning the master into a terrifying Blood Zombie. Every once in a while, when it opens, it's actually because it needs to feed on blood."

"Yes, that's why there are rules that when people enter, they must head to the center hall's suppression stone tablet and pour some blood on top of it. A thousand years ago, everyone wished someone else would pour their blood; as a result, the blood sacrificed was insufficient and a Blood Zombie appeared inside the mystery realm, sweeping across the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. In the end, Flower Blossom Tier cultivators from the Nine large countries showed, giving up their lives to destroy the Blood Zombie," Li Si Chan said.

Ling Han showed an interested expression, and muttered, "Blood Zombie?"

He's never heard of a mystery realm like this that required blood sacrifice from those who entered. Normally, when a blood sacrifice was needed, there were only two possibilities: first, to nurture a great devil's body with blood, like Blood Sucking Origin Gold; secondly, to either break or strengthen a seal.

'Could it be that inside the mystery realm resides the subdued Origin Gold Giant?' He suddenly had a bold guess.

Chapter 211: Setting Out

Ling Han had "seen" a small fragment of that great battle from the memory shards of the Blood Sucking Origin Gold and could confirm one thing, and that was that giant formed of Origin Gold had definitely been defeated.

According to his deduction, that giant should have been "dismembered", with its parts scattered in all directions. However, there were other possibilities as well. For example, that giant of Origin Gold might only have had some portion of its body torn off while the majority of its body was still unscathed.

If that was the case and the giant of Origin Gold had been suppressed within the mystery realm, then it would not be strange for a broken piece of its body to have appeared in Rain Country.

Of course, the chances of this possibility were very low, pitifully low.

But when he thought about how terrifying the giant of Origin Gold was, Ling Han still decided to venture into the Devil Sky Mystery Realm to take a look. If the giant of Origin Gold was indeed sealed within, then he must ensure that the seal was being strengthened, and not weakened.

'So many years have already passed. Even a monster like that Origin Gold Giant should have died by now, right?' Ling Han reassured himself in this way. However, in the case of an existence like the Origin Gold Giant, even if it had indeed died of old age, its immortal body could still give birth to a second life, though it would be a completely different "person".

Whatever the case, there was definitely a need for him to go to this Devil Sky Mystery Realm.

"How do you enter the Devil Sky Mystery Realm?" he questioned.

"It's very easy. After the mystery realm has opened, teleportation

doors will appear in various places. Once one passes through these doors, he will have directly entered into the Devil Sky Mystery Realm," Liu Yu Tong said. She paused for a while, then continued, "The reason why we know that the mystery realm has opened is precisely because the 'doors' have appeared."

"Three doors have appeared in Rain Country this time; the nearest one is three hundred miles east of the Imperial City," Li Si Chan said.

Ling Han nodded, then asked, "In the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, aside from Blood Zombie, what other danger is there?"

"The humans who used to live there have long perished, but there are still some demonic beasts within. Moreover, they seem to be trapped inside, and there is no way to bring them out either. Additionally, we also have no means to stay too long inside. After a certain period of time, we will automatically be ejected out of the mystery realm," Liu Yu Tong answered.

"According to rumors, there is a terrifying creature in the deepest parts of the Devil Sky Mystery Realm. That area is forbidden. We will only be touring around the outer boundaries. The mystery realm has only appeared after such a long time, so there must definitely be a large number of Spiritual Herbs that have already matured. They are our main targets," Li Si Chan said.

Liu Yu Tong nodded in agreement. As far as cultivation and martial arts techniques went, after so many generations of being harvested, it was practically impossible that there would still be any left. But it was different in the case of Spiritual Herbs. They could harvest a batch this time round, and the next appearance would probably be at least dozens of years later.

Especially this time. It has only reappeared after three hundred years, so there must definitely be a large amount of Spiritual Herbs just waiting to be harvested.

"What are the restrictions for entering the Devil Sky Mystery

Realm?" Ling Han continued to ask.

"In simple words, the lower your ability, the easier it would be to enter. However, every time is different. Sometimes, even Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites could enter, but there were also times when even Gushing Spring Tier martial artists were unable to enter," Liu Yu Tong said with a shake of her head.

Ling Han thought for a moment, then felt that it was all right.

Firstly, he had not offended any Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites. Secondly, if even Spiritual Ocean Tier elites could enter, he still had Guang Yuan by his side. Thirdly, if only those in Gushing Spring Tier and below could enter, then he had completely no fear. Even if he encountered such elites like Can Ye and the Eldest Imperial Prince, he would at least have the ability to keep his life.

Moreover, wasn't Can Ye currently his underling?

Not long after, the Hu Yang Academy made an announcement, commanding all students to immediately set off and enter the Devil Sky Mystery Realm. Meanwhile, those who would be entering the center hall to sacrifice some of their blood were given the first priority. If too little blood was sacrificed, then a Blood Zombie would appear to spread ruin and destruction in the world, and by then, who knows how many would die.

Very soon, Qi Yong Ye, Li Dong Yue, Jin Wuji, Baili Teng Yun and the others all raced over to Ling Han's place. They had all come from the Da Yuan City, so they were naturally intending to form a group and help each other.

"Yi, Brother Ling, your cultivation level..." Qi Yong Ye was the first to notice, and could not help but be extremely shocked. "Why has it regressed back to the first layer of Element Gathering Tier?"

Jin Wuji and the others all respectively sensed for Ling Han's aura, and indeed, there seemed to be only one Origin Nucleus. Disbelieving expressions too appeared on their faces. They had

only heard of people being stuck on a cultivation level and being unable to break through for a long time, but this was the first time they had seen a person's cultivation level actually drop to such a drastic level.

Ling Han laughed, and naturally offered no explanation. He said, "Since everyone's here, then let's set out."

"En!" Qi Yong Ye and the others were aware as well that Ling Han was very awesome in the field of alchemy. In the Da Yuan City, he was already able to subdue three Black Grade alchemists, and now he was even more awesome as even Black Grade middle level alchemists revered him.

From this aspect, what difference did it make whether Ling Han's own cultivation level was a bit lower or a bit higher?

They all set out. Ling Han also dropped by at the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and invited Li Hao as well. It was only then that the group finally left the Imperial City and headed east.

On their journey, more and more people appeared.

The Devil Sky Mystery Realm was not all about good stuff like cultivation techniques and Spiritual Herbs, it also required a large number of people to make a blood sacrifice. Otherwise, a Blood Zombie would appear. Thus, no matter how strong or weak anyone was, it was best to donate a bit of their blood for the sacrifice.

This was a matter of national importance, and the power of the Imperial Family was already effectively in action, maneuvering the citizens of various cities to head towards the Devil Sky Mystery Realm.

After half a day, Ling Han's group had finally arrived at the location of the teleportation doors.

Rather than calling it a door, it seemed more fitting to refer to it as a standing vortex. There was black-colored light twisting and

turning within it, and it was about ten metres tall. It was an imposing sight. There was no front or back to this teleportation door—no matter which side a person jumped through, he would still immediately disappear as if he had been swallowed whole.

Ling Han nodded internally. He had never had the ability to create such a thing in his last life. Only almighty warriors of Shattering Void Tier were capable of that.

There were a few who could no longer wait and entered, while others were still waiting outside. They seemed to be trying to gather a group. Once a big enough group had appeared, they would enter. And before each of them entered, they would be given a brand and a map.

The brand showed that they were citizens of Rain Country, whereas the map was very simple, only marking where the center hall was located.

...The people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North could enter through the teleportation doors that were scattered everywhere, so it was not just limited to the people of Rain Country. For example, Rain Country and Fire Country were neighbouring countries, and conflicts would frequently erupt between these two nations. It was unknown how many had died in these conflicts after these few thousand years, so the two countries have long become deadly enemies. Thus, whenever the citizens of these two countries encountered each other, they would definitely attempt to kill the other.

This brand was what was used to identify friends and enemies. It was directly branded on one's arm and could last for about a month, so it was more than enough time.

The restrictions for the teleportation doors this time were not too low. Even those in Spiritual Ocean Tier could enter, but Spiritual Pedestal Tier martial artists could not.

"Ling Han!" A voice forced out through gritted teeth was heard,

filled with endless hatred.

Ling Han turned his head to look, and couldn't help but look strangely at the owner of the voice.

Feng Luo.

Did this guy have the life of a cockroach or something? He actually appeared again.

Moreover, his two arms were indeed reattached, but it was obvious they were not very nimble. It seemed like they were simply glued on and hung at his sides, looking very out of sorts. After all, it was already very impressive that they managed to reattach his arms, but if they were still able to move as nimbly as if they had never been sliced off, then that was practically illogical.

Chapter 212: Feng Luo is Killed

"Hey!" Ling Han waved his hand in greeting.

At first, Feng Luo already looked like he wanted to devour Ling Han, but when he saw this, he was even more fuming with rage, wanting nothing more than to rush forward and strangle Ling Han to death. However, he did not. Firstly, he was not strong enough, and secondly, he could not raise his arms at all. In fact, if he actually exerted any force through his arms, his arms may very possibly simply fall off, so he could only huff in rage.

"Ling Han, if you dare to enter the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, that will be the time of your death!" he said through gritted teeth.

Behind him, the four Guardian Deities took a step forward in unison, looking disdainfully at him out of the corner of their eyes.

Eh, after not seeing them for over a month, the cultivation of these four people actually scurried up another layer, and made it to the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier. One had to understand that the higher the cultivation level, the more difficult it was to break through. For example, even for a genius like Liu Yu Tong, who also possessed the Three Yin Vanishing Veins and was cultivating a Heaven Grade cultivation technique and also had access to a supply of alchemical pills from Ling Han, she would only advance by one cultivation layer after about two months.

How could these four actually manage to stand on even footing with Liu Yu Tong?

Ling Han remembered Feng Yan. This guy was also advancing unbelievably rapidly through the cultivation levels; could it be that he had discovered an ancient treasure trove, and even those around him could ride on his coat-tails and get to the top?

The four Guardian Deities were all glaring fiercely at Ling Han. Previously, even when the four of them combined forces, Ling Han

had still managed to capture Feng Luo right in front of their eyes. Thankfully, even when Feng Yan personally appeared, Feng Luo's arms were still not saved, which was what made their fault just that little bit lighter.

But this was still a great shame to them. They hated Ling Han deeply, wanting nothing more than to tear him into pieces to wash off this black mark on their reputations.

And the mystery realm was obviously a very good place to settle personal grudges.

It was much too big inside, and there were always chances that one would be separated from their group, and once they encountered him... hehe! Moreover, the people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North were also able to enter, so even if they killed Ling Han, they could completely push the blame onto the foreign martial artists.

Ling Han smiled, but there was killing intent being exuded from his eyes.

The first time he met Feng Luo, because the latter had not displayed any killing intent, he only taught him a little lesson and had not taken the matter to heart. He never thought that this cockroach would have such a long life and would be so annoying.

Hu Niu stuck out her tongue and made a face at Feng Luo, baring her little canines, seeming very disdainful of him.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "Feng Luo, you see, not even my Niu Niu is scared of you. I really don't know what you're so smug about!"

Qi Yong Ye and the others too laughed loudly.

Feng Luo trembled in fury. He ground his teeth, then proclaimed, "Ling Han, I swear I will kill all your family members and friends one by one, right in front of you, before killing you!"

Instantly, Ling Han's face darkened, and an overflowing killing

intent was exuded from him.

He did not mind playing around with this kind of minor character—he could always kill him easily with a single stomp of his foot. But the other actually threatened to kill his family and friends? His strongest character trait was protecting his own people!

"You're seeking death!" He began to stride towards Feng Luo.

"Ling Han, are you tired of living?" The four Guardian Deities all smirked coldly. In their last clash, it was because they had underestimated Ling Han that he had the opportunity to capture Feng Luo and hold him hostage, forcing them to be helpless against him.

But this did not mean that Ling Han was able to oppose them in a direct clash. Element Gathering Tier will only be Element Gathering Tier, after all.

"Get out of my way, smelly pests!" Ling Han said coldly, the killing intent exuding from him almost seeming solid.

The four Guardian Deities looked angered. 'This time, you have no hostage in your hands, so how are you going to oppose us?'

"Kill him! Kill him!" Feng Luo screamed in spite of himself. As Ling Han approached, he could not help but recall the few times he had clashed with Ling Han—he was scared off, kicked away, his mouthful of teeth was smacked out, and finally, even his two arms were sliced off.

As he looked at Ling Han's slender figure come closer, he instantly had a mental breakdown.

"Kill! Kill him!" he wailed, tears and snot pouring down his face.

The four Guardian Deities were disdainful of such a hideous display, but who asked him to be Feng Yan's brother? They stared at Ling Han with cold eyes. This was a very good chance for them to act.

"The one who is going to die today is you!" Ling Han said. He moved, and actually charged directly towards the four Guardian Deities.

"Insolence!" the four Guardian Deities shouted in rage. This brat had succeeded once in dodging their hands. Could it be he wanted to attempt the same thing again? Did he really think they were idiots?

"Ling Han!" Qi Yong Ye and the others all exclaimed in shock. They never thought that he would be so awesome and simply clashed head-on with four Gushing Spring Tier elites just like that.

Hong, hong, hong, hong. Four attacks were simultaneously launched and swept towards Ling Han. This time, the four Guardian Deities had all had an upgrade of one Battle Star in their battle prowess, and if the four of them joined forces, they were definitely capable of instantly killing any martial artist in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier—no matter what kind of genius he was.

However, Ling Han was not at the peak period of Element Gathering Tier. Instead, he had transformed nine into one, and had successfully captured the evasive one.

The tenth layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

Ling Han used the Exiting Cloud Steps and his figure miraculously broke through the combined barrage of attacks of the four Guardian Deities like a ghost and appeared in front of Feng Luo in a flash. He stretched out a hand to grab onto Feng Luo's neck.

"Save me!" Feng Luo shrieked in panic.

The four Guardian Deities were both shocked and enraged. They could not imagine how Ling Han had somehow managed to break through their combined attacks, and a thought appeared in their minds: 'History is probably going to repeat itself.'

Indeed, they were one step too late, and were unable to stop Ling Han. They could only watch as Feng Luo was subdued by Ling Han in a single move.

"Let go of Young Master Luo!" the four Guardian Deities shouted grimly yet did not dare make a move, just in case Ling Han would do any harm to Feng Luo.

This scene was very familiar, causing their faces to burn as if they had just been given a slap. To actually fall for the same trick twice, were they idiots?

Of course not!

This was because Ling Han was too powerful for them now.

Ling Han did not concern himself with the four Guardian Deities. He merely stared at Feng Luo, then asked darkly, "You want to kill my entire family?"

"Ling Han, you will not dare to kill me! If you have balls, you can cripple my arms again! Anyways, my brother will definitely return to save me! Just wait, when my brother comes back, I will definitely massacre your whole family!" His fear had reached extreme levels, and Feng Luo simply threw caution to the wind and stared back at Ling Han with fierce eyes.

"Come on, if you have the balls, cripple me again! If you don't, then you are a f***** grandson! Ling Han, I'm not scared of you. You have no idea what kind of power my brother has obtained, not even the Rain—"

Pu!

A crisp sound was heard, and Feng Luo's head had disappeared as Ling Han had smacked it into his chest. Only after a while, could blood be seen gushing out from his neck.

A dead silence enveloped the surroundings.

Ling Han smacked his hands together, and said, "The world has

finally become quiet."

"Young Master Luo!" the four Guardian Deities all cried out. However, after losing support from Ling Han, Feng Luo's legs swayed a few times, then fell to the ground loudly. Even the head has been stuffed into his chest, how could he possibly still be alive?

Unless he really was a cockroach.

"Murder! Murder!" Seeing such a scene, immediately some began to cry out. However, though there was a large number of Imperial Guards maintaining order here, there were even more people all around, and everywhere was noisy. Not one Imperial Guard managed to come over in such a short while.

"You killed Young Master Luo. When Milord returns, he will definitely tear you to pieces!" the Elephant Guardian Deity called out sternly.

"You speak as if I have a very good relationship with Feng Yan." Ling Han shrugged, not taking such a threat seriously at all.

Chapter 213: Little Ye Ye

"What's going on here?" A few Imperial Guards arrived slowly. When they saw a headless corpse on the ground, their expressions immediately changed. They were responsible for maintaining order in this place, and now that someone has died, it would be difficult for them to make their report.

"Sirs, this man committed murder in public. We implore you, sirs, to act and apprehend him!" the four Guardian Deities all pointed at Ling Han.

When the Imperial Guards saw Ling Han, they couldn't stop their faces from twitching.

They naturally knew who Ling Han was. Their superiors had already commanded repeatedly that they were definitely not to come into conflict with this person. But this brat really caused too much worry; how could he simply commit murder in public?

Ling Han scoffed, and said, "Firstly, there is a need for me to correct you. This is not the Imperial City. As martial artists, it is only a matter of course for us to have conflicts with each other in the wild. Just now, I had a bit of a conflict with that idiot, but in the end, this idiot was really too weak. Just one blow, and he was finished."

Everyone stared blankly. Indeed, this was not the Imperial City; it was seven hundred miles away from the Imperial City. It was just the fact that everyone around here had come from the Imperial City and there were also the Imperial Guards maintaining order here which led them to still have the mindset that they were in the Imperial City.

Fights and battles in the wild were indeed much too common. The number of people in Rain Country who had died because of this every year was uncountable. If each and every case was pursued, then Rain Country would probably be finished, because

every single party was more or less involved in such battles.

However, though that was the logic, why did it sound a bit strange?

"Don't create any more trouble. Otherwise, we will be placing you under arrest. If anyone dares resist, he will be killed with no exception!" One of the Imperial Guards finally decided not to pass judgement on Ling Han's life until he was dead.

"Agreed!" Ling Han raised his hand and said. He had already killed the person he wanted to kill, and what'd follow would be the four Guardian Deities going crazy. He had no intention to make a move at all.

The four Guardian Deities were so mad they could spit blood. Wasn't this aimed at them?

"Let's go. We'll go into the mystery realm. Everything will be discussed after Milord returns," the Wolf Guardian Deity said in a low voice.

"When Milord returns this time, he will be bringing with him supreme authority. Not even if the Rain Emperor appeared would he be able to save this brat!" The Tiger Guardian Deity nodded as well.

"Enter the mystery realm!" the Elephant Guardian Deity said through gritted teeth. They had once again failed to protect Feng Luo; who knows whether or not Feng Yan would vent his fury on them when he returned. Just the thought of him was enough to freeze their hearts in their chests.

The four Guardian Deities entered into the mystery realm one by one, and instantly disappeared.

It was only now that Qi Yong Ye and the others sighed in relief. They realized that there was a layer of cold sweat on their foreheads, and they could feel that their bodies were cold.

"Brother Ling, you are really too bold," Baili Teng Yun said,

having lingering fear in his heart.

"He's just a smelly bug. If I've stamped him to death, then I've stamped him to death," Ling Han said unconcernedly.

"Though Feng Luo is not one to be feared, but Feng Yan..." Qi Yong Ye merely began. Who did not know that Feng Yan was extremely influential now? He could practically do anything in the Academy, and just the thought of forming a deadly enmity with Feng Yan was enough to scare anyone.

"Ai, Little Ye Ye!" Ling Han suddenly waved at someone behind them.

Qi Yong Ye and the others all turned around to look, and saw that it was a young man who only had one arm. He was only one person with one saber, but it was like he was a master of nature, with a supreme aura circulating around him. Anyone would become extremely insignificant in front of him.

Can Ye!

But... Little Ye Ye?

Everyone's expressions became a little strange. Could it be that there was some ambiguous relation that could not be revealed between these two men?

Can Ye walked over and did not show any objection nor discomfort at how Ling Han had addressed him. Only the saber existed in his heart and spirit. So what if the whole world slandered him or spoke ill of him? One slash from him, and everything would be silenced.

"All right, since everyone in our group is here, let's go!" Ling Han said, smiling.

When had Can Ye become one of their group?

Qi Yong Ye and the others were all astonished, but they did not say anything more. Instead, they kept close behind Ling Han and

walked towards the teleportation door. As for the problem of Feng Yan, it was best to leave it to be discussed later.

Xiu, xiu, xiu. They passed through one by one. Ling Han was carrying Hu Niu, and in the instant he passed through the vortex, he felt as if even his soul was about to torn apart; time seemed to have lost all meaning, forever stagnating in that one moment.

He had just barely finished that thought when he suddenly appeared in an unfamiliar world. The green grass was laid out like a mattress, as if it was an ocean. As a breeze blew past, the grass would sway slightly, as if a gentle wave had passed through. There was an indescribable beauty to this place.

However, aside from Hu Niu, who was carried in his arms, his surroundings were completely empty. There was not even a ghost around.

Random teleportation.

Ling Han frowned. He had asked many questions, but this was the only thing he had not asked about. In the end, it was an absolute waste for them to have gathered before, and there was no point to it at all.

Thankfully, Hu Niu was clinging to him all along. Otherwise, who knows where this little girl would be sent to. Without him there to control her, who knows what kind of trouble the little girl would get into, especially with her ferocious nature.

"Wa!" Hu Niu jumped down from Ling Han's body. Using all four of her limbs, she began to race around madly.

She had grown up in the forest since she was a child, and this kind of world was where she truly belonged.

Ling Han walked ahead, whereas Hu Niu was racing around happily. At one moment, she would be in front of Ling Han, and in the next, she would be behind him. Sometimes, she would be to his left, while at other times, she would be to his right. Even Ling Han

was infected by her happy mood, and could not help but smile.

"Danger!" He was suddenly alerted, and hurriedly leaped towards Hu Niu.

Xiu , a small, white creature suddenly jumped out. It was a rabbit. It had been chewing on the grass, but Hu Niu's running around had scared it out, making Ling Han think that it had been an enemy.

He smiled and stopped walking. Hu Niu, on the other hand, perked up and immediately tried to capture it. She raced after the rabbit, her mouth open wide, and kept trying to bite it.

Obviously, Hu Niu did not think the rabbit was cute at all, and merely thought of it as prey.

Xiu , the rabbit fled very quickly, but Hu Niu was not too slow either. She chased after it quickly, and Ling Han's yell did not manage to stop Hu Niu, so he could only follow at her heels.

After a while, the rabbit scrambled into the grass, and there was no sign of it left. It seemed that it had fled into a rabbit's hole. Hu Niu immediately began to dig at the ground with both hands, intending to capture this rabbit at all costs.

"Forget it, though that little guy is very fat, with your appetite, it's not even enough to be an appetizer." Ling Han picked Hu Niu up. The little girl was very displeased, pouting her mouth to show her displeasure.

Xiu, xiu, xiu, xiu. It was at this moment that a lot of rabbits jumped out from the rabbit's hole. However, these rabbits were not cute all. They were as big as dogs, and had bright red eyes, exuding a bloodthirsty aura.

'Damn!'

Ling Han cursed internally and could not help but be cautious. That was because these rabbits were actually in Element Gathering Tier, and there were even two of them that were in Gushing Spring

Tier.

Thirty, forty, fifty... their numbers increased further and further. Finally, a giant rabbit that was about the size of a human being jumped out, and this last rabbit exuded an aura that would only come from someone in the late stage of Gushing Spring Tier.

Some people would say that they've poked the hornet's nest, but now, it's become the rabbit's nest.

Ling Han's eyes swept over and he had done his calculations mentally: one was in the late stage of Gushing Spring Tier, seven were in the middle stage of Gushing Spring Tier, twenty one were in the early stage of Gushing Spring Tier, and there were even as many as a hundred rabbits in Element Gathering Tier.

He immediately realized there was no way to win, then hurriedly picked up Hu Niu and fled.

Since there was no way to win, then he'd just have to flee. That was the easiest way out.

Chapter 214: Grassy Plains

There was no other option but to flee. If there were less than ten of them in the early stage of Gushing Spring Tier, Ling Han could still somehow manage to fight them. But there were about twenty of them here, more than enough to drown him to death, what more when there were some that were in the middle stage and one in the late stage of Gushing Spring Tier.

If Ling Han had really charged forwards, that was not called battle. That was called delivering himself up to die.

He began to run, while those rabbits behind him refused to give up chasing after him.

Previously, it was Hu Niu who had been chasing after the little rabbit. Now, their positions were switched, and it was them now who were running like crazy.

Hu Niu was not anxious at all. She kept smacking Ling Han's shoulder, and saying, "Run faster! Run faster!"

This little girl!

How could Ling Han spare the time to chastise the little girl? He could only channel all his energy into running for their lives. But the rabbit demons were well known for their speed in the first place, what more when there was an old rabbit monster that was in the late period of Gushing Spring Tier. Thus, in just a few moments, they were right behind Ling Han and opened their mouths, ready to bite.

As the old saying goes, if forced into desperate straits, even rabbits would bite. The two front teeth of that old rabbit demon were like hoes, long and sharp, flickering with cold light.

Ling Han transformed the Blood Sucking Origin Gold into a shield and blocked this attack. A powerful shock wave shook him, causing him to feel so bad he practically wanted to spit out blood.

And with such a pause, the large number of rabbit demons who were right behind had come nearer.

From the way things were going now, he would definitely be unable to escape.

Ling Han sighed, drew out a Swift Cloud Talisman and slapped it onto his body. Weng , this ordinary-looking talisman paper suddenly shone brilliantly, and an indescribable power gushed into his body.

Xiu , he once again began to run furiously, and his speed had immediately increased tenfold.

"Zhi! Zhi! Zhi!" The rabbit demons released squeaks of anger, but Ling Han was getting farther and farther from them. Finally, Ling Han had left them completely behind him, and there was no sign of him left in their eyes.

Once a Spiritual Talisman was used, there would be no way to stop its effects. Ling Han did not want to waste it, so he continued to run forwards, and only when the effects of the Swift Cloud Talisman were completely spent did he stop. He took out an alchemical pill and swallowed it to heal the internal injuries he had suffered when he had clashed head-on with that old rabbit demon just now.

The Indestructible Heaven Scroll was circulated, and his injuries were healing at a visible rate.

'As long as it's not a major injury to my nerves or bones, I would be able to recover my injuries in the time for a cup of hot tea.' Ling Han smiled. 'However, even if I had suffered heavy injuries, I still have a drop of Indestructible True Fluid.'

"Fun! Fun!" Hu Niu said happily.

"Little girl, just to let you have a little fun for that short while, I actually used up a Swift Cloud Talisman!" Ling Han shook his head, petted Hu Niu's head, and said, "This is a very dangerous

place. Niu Niu, be good and don't run around anymore."

"En, Niu is a good Niu, will be good!" Hu Niu nodded her head earnestly, looking very serious.

Ling Han laughed. Just now, if Hu Niu had not gone to chase after that little rabbit, then would they still have disturbed those demonic beasts when they passed by the lair of the rabbit demons...? The answer was: who knows. That was because the rabbits lived underground, and were very sensitive to the tremors above the ground. Moreover, those red-eyed rabbits were obviously very ferocious; perhaps even if they had not disturbed them, they would still have gone berserk.

"Now, where should we go?" He drew out the map.

The entire Devil Sky Mystery Realm was very big and was rumored to be comparable to a country in size. This map only marked the outermost zone, which was roughly about one tenth of the area of the whole mystery realm.

...Which also meant that the Nine Nations of the Desolate North had only managed to make it this far, while the area beyond that was much too dangerous and there was no way to access it.

But it was also possible that some great party had made it into a deeper area but, to keep the benefits for themselves, did not share that information with anyone else.

This was very possible, because the deeper into the mystery realm, the higher the Grade of the cultivation and martial arts techniques would have to be, so why did they have to share that information with others? Why should they not leave it for themselves to exploit?

However, the Devil Sky Mystery Realm would rarely open, once in dozens of years at least, or a few hundred years at most. This was not very good to arrange. There were some parties that had been extremely influential the last time it opened, but may

probably have declined to unimaginable levels the next time it opened.

'My current location... er, the outermost zone is a plain, and has been named as the Grassy Plains. As long as I walk towards the center, there will be a Ring-shaped Mountain, which has a total of four ravines through which I can enter. And at the end of every ravine, there is a center hall.

If I want to enter the deeper areas of the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, I must pass through the four ravines—unless I am able to scale this Ring-shaped Mountain. However, it is said that this mountain is 1000 feet tall and is extremely steep, so there is no way to climb up the mountain.

Then I should find a ravine first. I am very curious about the depths of this mystery realm. What could be concealed inside?'

Ling Han looked into the distance, and indeed, he was able to see a dark shadow at the horizon. That would be the Ring-shaped Mountain, and it was so tall that it looked like it was connected to the sky.

"Let's go!" Hu Niu acted like an adult, tugged on Ling Han's hand and walked forwards.

They began their advance towards the Ring-shaped Mountain.

Ling Han very quickly discovered that there was no night in here, and though the sky was bright, there was no sun. This was not a complete world. Instead, it was "carved out" from the real world by an almighty person with supreme methods, so it was naturally not the same as the real world.

This was his first time entering into a mystery realm and he could not help but be astonished, feeling everything was very novel.

After journeying for about half a day, the little girl began to exclaim in her hunger.

Ling Han was also feeling a little hungry. Thankfully, he had a Spatial Ring, and had already readied a supply of food which was stored inside. And in order to satisfy Hu Niu's monstrous appetite, he had also prepared some demonic beast meat. It was also a piece of meat, but it contained tenfold the energy that could be gotten from eating normal meat.

...The higher the grade of the demonic beast, the more energy and power was contained in their blood and bones.

The little girl had a very big appetite as her body required a colossal amount of energy, but there were also times when she had eaten too much—such as the time when she had eaten the root of that Divine Medicine. It directly transformed Hu Niu into an egg.

After eating their meal, they journeyed for a while longer before stopping to rest. They set up a tent on the grass and after enough sleep, they once again continued their journey.

There would be people of the Nine Nations gathered here as well, and the highest cultivation level that could enter was Spiritual Ocean Tier. Thus, they had to ensure that they were in prime condition at all times. Otherwise, if they were killed off, whom should they cry out their grievances to?

"The random teleportation is really detestable!" Ling Han sighed. Otherwise, he would have Guang Yuan by his side and would also be able to command Can Ye, so he would not have to be so cautious like how he was now.

Though they could not see the change from day to night here, Ling Han was still keeping track of the passage of time in his heart. After about three days, they could finally see the true form of the Ring-shaped Mountain ahead of them, and not the black lump they had been seeing for the last few days.

By this point, there was also gradually more trees, and it was no longer purely grass being the dominant plant species around them. These trees were all purple in color, scattered throughout a green

plain that stretched as far as the eye could see; it was a unique scenery.

"Stand right there!" A voice was suddenly heard from the top of a tree.

Ling Han raised his head and saw that there was a person hunched down on top. The person was continuously waving a hand at him, signaling at him to stop going forwards. His eyes were sharp enough to see that the brand on the other's arm was the same as his.

"Why?" Ling Han questioned.

That man looked a bit defiant, but he was more afraid that Ling Han would spoil things, so he could only say, "We are getting ready to kill a Fire-Eyed Bull, and this is the encirclement zone we have set up. That Fire-Eyed Bull is about to be tempted over, and if you enter, you may ruin our plans."

Chapter 215: Fire-Eyed Bull

The Fire-Eyed Bull was a Level Three demonic beast. It was not a very high level, but its eyes were a treasure. It could resist extreme cold, thus they were very highly prized by adventurers, for they would be extremely useful when one explored those places that were freezingly cold.

As a result, there were pitifully few Fire-Eyed Bulls left, and the price for the eyeballs of the Fire-Eyed Bull had also become astronomical. When these people discovered that there were Fire-Eyed Bulls here, it was unavoidable that they would have the desire to hunt them down.

However, the Fire-Eyed Bulls moved in a herd, and if they launched a stampede, then only Spiritual Ocean Tier elites would be able to oppose them. Evidently, there was no one in Spiritual Ocean Tier amongst these people, so there was a need for them to think how to lure one away from the herd. Only when one of them was away from its herd would they gang up on it and kill it.

These thoughts flashed through Ling Han's head in an instant. He smiled slightly, and said, "This place does not belong to you, and I'm walking my way here, so why do I need to circle around and take a different path?"

"You..." That man was at a loss for words, but then he immediately glared at Ling Han and shouted, "If you don't get lost, I'll kill you! You are merely in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, and you actually dare to be so arrogant!"

This man was only in the seventh layer of Element Gathering Tier, but against an opponent in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, he was perfectly able to suppress him.

Ling Han sighed. Now that he was left with only one Origin Nucleus, it seemed very capable of attracting enemies to him. He looked at the man, and asked, "Are you sure you want to use

force?"

Hong long long . It was right at this moment, that a black shape appeared, approaching them at an extremely rapid pace. When he looked closely, it was a black-colored bull, but there seemed to be a flame lit and brightly burning within its eyes.

There was a martial artist in front of this bull who obviously had the same plan as these people, which was to tempt a single bull away from its herd.

En?

Ling Han's heart moved, and the Strange Fire was currently dancing in his left hand. It was currently making "yi yi ya ya" sounds, transmitting a blurry thought to him, just like Hu Niu when she was proclaiming her hunger.

...The Strange Fire seemed to be very interested in the two flames burning in the eyes of the Fire-Eyed Bull, wanting to swallow them.

Ling Han nodded, and communicated a thought over, saying, "If I have the chance, I'll get it for you." He did not make any guarantees, because he had no idea what was the power level of this group of people. He had only seen two of their group so far.

When he saw Ling Han did not move, the man at the top of the tree did not speak either. Instead, he stared at the Fire-Eyed Bull anxiously.

"Attack!" A large shout was issued, and ten-plus people jumped down from the trees or scrambled out of the grass, managing to surround that bull from all sides.

Ling Han's eyes swept over them as he counted their numbers in his heart, 'One in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier, one in the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier, one in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and the other twelve are in Element Gathering Tier. En, there should be no problem.'

The problem here was that Fire Eyed-Bull!

The Fire-Eyed Bull was a Level Three demonic beast, but it was uncertain where in Level Three it was. That was because demonic beasts had a different system of cultivation from humans, so it was very difficult to sense their level. But for Ling Han, his senses far surpassed any ordinary person's—perhaps even the senses of a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite were no stronger than his.

"This Fire-Eyed Bull seems to be in the late stage of Gushing Spring Tier!" The corner of Ling Han's lips twitched.

The late stage of Gushing Spring Tier would absolutely dominate over an opponent in the early stage of Gushing Spring Tier. Three martial artists in Gushing Spring Tier were absolutely insufficient to compensate for such a massive gap in power. Moreover, demonic beasts had thick hides, so even if a martial artist was in the same level of the demonic beast, it was still very difficult to kill it, what more when there was a difference in level.

Unless there was some secret treasure on these martial artists that could somehow turn things around.

That martial artist who had been at the top of tree naturally jumped down as well and joined his companions in ganging up on the Fire-Eyed Bull. Ling Han didn't act too reserved—he climbed up the tree, and occupied the man's previous position, watching the show with Hu Niu.

Fifteen people all drew their weapons and began to gang up on the bull, but the Fire-Eyed Bull also showed off its formidable side, beginning to charge violently at those people.

It actually spat out very powerful fireballs from its mouth as well. One of the men carelessly used his sword to block one of them, but could not slice it in half at all, so the fireball crashed into his chest directly and immediately burnt a big hole through his body, killing him in an instant.

When the rest saw this, the expressions on the faces of the remaining fourteen all changed drastically and they became much more careful in their movements,

But this Fire-Eyed Bull was too powerful. With the support of power of the late stage of Gushing Spring Tier, it was completely unstoppable. Crashing and flinging its horns, it dominated everyone. Rather than saying they were ganging up on it, it might be more appropriate to say it was ravaging them.

Peng, peng, peng. The martial artists of Element Gathering Tier were continuously being flung away by the bull as if they were scarecrows. Even if they had not been hit by the fireballs, it was definitely not a good feeling to be pierced or struck by the bull's horns. There were a few whose stomachs had been pierced through and their intestines were exposed, making for an appalling scene of devastation.

"Senior Brother Ma, we must use our ultimate move," the martial artist in the second layer of Gushing Spring Tier said.

"F***!" the martial artist in the third layer of Gushing Spring Tier who had been addressed as Senior Brother Ma cursed and drew out a Spirit Talisman from his robes reluctantly and slapped it onto his body. "Just to kill a Fire-Eyed Bull, I have to use a Strength Talisman. There won't be much profit left."

The others were all silent, because Senior Brother Ma was only concerned about how much money he could earn, and showed no concern for those who were injured or killed. This made them feel very disillusioned.

They were not together at first. Instead, they had encountered Senior Brother Ma and his two companions on their way here. Due to the threats and promises of the latter, they had joined this hunting party, but from the look of things now, they were merely bait and tools to distract the bull.

The Spirit Talisman immediately took effect. Senior Brother Ma

roared loudly and, unbelievably, actually swelled up to double his previous size. Pa, pa, pa, the clothes on his body were immediately torn to pieces. Thankfully, his underpants seemed to be made of some unknown material and were tough enough not to be torn by his sudden increase in size.

Numerous veins were protruding on his body, his muscles sturdy, seeming to be full of strength.

Strength Talisman, which claimed that miracles could be achieved through massive strength because enough strength would be able to dominate over anything in its way.

The Fire-Eyed Bull looked at him with dread. This human gave it a feeling of danger. It stopped, aimed its horns at Senior Brother Ma, and its front hooves endlessly dug at the ground.

"Go! Die!" Senior Brother Ma roared in rage, waved the metal staff in his hands and struck out at the Fire-Eyed Bull.

The Fire-Eyed Bull was obviously a brute force-type, and dodging was not something it was good at. Thus, faced with such a strike, it had no intention to dodge. Instead, it raised its horns to receive this attack.

Peng!

The metal staff struck upon the bull's horns, creating a rain of fiery sparks. The front leg of the Fire-Eyed Bull was forced into the ground, stopping just before the point where its leg joined its body. Meanwhile, the metal staff was also flung out due to the impact, causing the web between the thumb and the forefinger of Senior Brother Ma to tear, and instantly, blood gushed out.

When Ling Han saw his, he could not help but shake his head, thinking secretly that these were two idiots—to actually use strength in the stupidest of ways like this. But if an idiot was battling another idiot, that was good. In such a head-on clash, the victor would be decided very quickly.

The Fire-Eyed Bull exerted force through its legs, and immediately sprung out of the ground. However, after this head on clash, it had a stronger feeling of dread now, and no longer dared to attack carelessly. Instead, it stared at Senior Brother Ma with extreme caution in its eyes.

In the understanding of demonic beasts, the first priority was to survive.

"Attack with me, and we'll kill this animal!" Senior Brother Ma called out sternly. He needed the others to create an opportunity for him to attack.

Chapter 216: Ten-Way Destruction

No one wanted to attack because Senior Brother Ma already used up a Strength Talisman. This thing was very expensive, amounting to not much less than the value of a Fire-Eyed Bull, so even if they took down the latter, Senior Brother Ma would take the largest share—and just how much would the others get?

To risk one's life for a few hundred silvers, who wanted to do such a thing?

But, they couldn't not do it. Senior Brother Ma was staring fiercely at them— whoever didn't fight would definitely be the first one to be killed by Senior Brother Ma.

There were no laws here.

They had to force themselves to fight, but each one was more cautious than another, scared of being rammed by the bull or shot by its fireballs; otherwise, even if they didn't die, they'd lose half their lives.

Although they were weak, they could at least attract some of the Fire-Eyed Bull's attention. Senior Brother Ma took advantage of it to strike, and with loud peng peng peng , a great battle ensued again.

Senior Brother Ma was now able to fight on par with the Fire-Eyed Bull; on top of the ten helpers, he naturally had the upper hand. Taking several hits on the waist and back from Senior Brother Ma, the Fire-Eyed Bull showed fear.

It wanted to run.

However, Senior Brother Ma and the rest already paid such a high price, there was no way they'd allow their prey to escape. Naturally, they obstructed its way with all their might, and soon, the Fire-Eyed Bull was riddled with injuries.

The demonic beast knew it was impossible to escape by now, so

instead it bore a fierce look, full of a resolute atmosphere.

It was about to put up a desperate fight.

"The Fire-Eyed Bull has an innate mystic art, Ten-Way Destruction, which ignites the source of fire power within its body at once; the damage it deals is extremely terrifying. However, this will also shatter the Fire-Eyed Bull's source of fire power, with no possibility of ever recovering," Ling Han muttered to himself.

"Yes! Yes! Yes!" Hu Niu sat prim and proper, continually nodding her head as if she could understand.

It was obvious that Senior Brother Ma and the others did not know Fire-Eyed Bull's ultimate ability, continually attacking aggressively on all sides.

"Give it some more effort everyone, this demonic beast bull is about to reach its end."

"Although the bull's eyes are the most valuable, if there's a bezoar in its body, then it'll be quite a gain!"

"Give it your all. If anyone dares to slack off, hmpf, I'll let them know regret later!"

Under Senior Brother Ma and the other two's strict orders, everyone was forced to put more strength into their attacks, giving Senior Brother Ma more chances to attack.

Hong!

A strong fire gushed out fiercely from within the Fire-Eyed Bull's body, shooting in all directions like a thousand or ten thousand fireballs shooting out together. Other than to back off, there was no chance to dodge it.

However, the speed at which the flame burst out was too fast, only Senior Brother Ma and his companions who were at higher Tiers managed to escape the area of the bursting flame, while the

others were all burned to dust.

Despite evading, Senior Brother Ma and his companions had several burnt marks on their bodies, a spot of black and a spot of burnt, looking rather beaten.

With this ultimate attack unleashed, the Fire-Eyed Bull instantly had no strength left to stand, falling onto the ground with a peng .

"Damn it! Damn it!" Senior Brother Ma cursed while crying out in pain. "I've got to waste a lot more medicine pills to heal. This time there is really almost no profit."

"In any case, we still took down this demonic beast." One of the others smiled and walked up to strike another blow, piercing into the Fire-Eyed Bull's brain. The bull's limbs suddenly convulsed, and then became motionless again—its life came to an end.

"However... we still need to get rid of someone!" Senior Brother Ma carried his rod and walked toward the tree where Ling Han sat. He revealed a smirk, and said, "Kid, you thought I wouldn't find a rat like you?"

Ling Han smiled. When he walked over, he didn't hide his presence and talked to one guy for a while—the surrounding people naturally discovered him. What was there to be proud of?

"So many have died, you still want to escape?" Senior Brother Ma sneered, swinging his rod to attack.

Peng , the metal rod hit the large tree, which instantly snapped. The massive trunk toppled over, and even the ground vibrated slightly from the shock.

Ling Han leapt carrying Hu Niu and landed nearby. His eyes had a shred of coldness as he said, "We're without grievances or hate, yet you're still trying to kill me?"

"Can't blame us for being hurt. What if you raid us when we're healing our wounds, wouldn't we be on the defensive? So, please, you should just go die now!" Senior Brother Ma said coldly.

Ling Han laughed, and then said, "What makes you so confident that you'll beat me?"

"Hahahaha!" Senior Brother Ma and his companions laughed aloud. "A mere martial artist in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier... you think you can give us hell?"

'As expected, my current status brings too much aggro.'

Ling Han shook his head and said, "I really don't want to act cool, but... you three pig heads are someone I'm definitely capable of destroying!"

"Impudence!" One of them shot out; the blade shed a cold glare within their hand, slicing towards Ling Han.

He was in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and while he was heavily wounded, dealing with someone in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier definitely didn't require more than a single blow; naturally, it was impossible for any accidents to occur. Therefore, Senior Brother Ma and the other person smiled happily and watched.

Ling Han moved, unleashed his sword with a qiang , and six flashes of sword qi flew out.

"What?!"

"Six flashes of sword qi?!"

Senior Brother Ma and the other guy cried out in surprise at the same time, but they immediately regained their composure. No matter, no matter—although six flashes of sword qi was certainly something alarming, Ling Han's tier was just too low; even with ten flashes of sword qi, it was impossible to make up for an entire nine Tiers' difference.

Pu pu pu pu , a glaring light washed over, and they saw that the flesh on the body of that martial artist in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier was sliced into pieces; and when all of Ling Han's flashes of sword qi flushed over, the person completely

turned into a bloody and mutilated mess.

Fu*k!

Senior Brother Ma and the other guy's jaws dropped, and their eyes became larger than a brass bell. This scene completely shattered their worldview.

Someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier was instantly killed by the sword strike of a person in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier? Who would believe this? Even they who witnessed it with their own eyes could not believe it.

"You, you're definitely not in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier!" Senior Brother Ma said through his teeth.

Ling Han smiled as he said, "Then how strong do you think I am?"

Senior Brother Ma didn't know what to say—that aura was definitely that of the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier, but after carefully examining it, it certainly was stronger than the normal cultivation of the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier. But even if it was stronger by tenfold, it'd only be equivalent to the middle stage of Element Gathering Tier, so how was it possible that he had the strength to instantly kill someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?

"Whatever your cultivation is, you can only die!" Senior Brother Ma roared. His Strength Talisman was still in effect, and with the power of the late stage of the Gushing Spring Tier, he was infinitely confident.

Hong!

He came swinging his metal rod. As its speed was too fast and its power too heavy, wherever the metal rod swept, air vortices formed.

Ling Han smiled slightly; his feet shifted, and his body instantly moved like a ghost.

If Senior Brother Ma was truly in the late stage of the Gushing Spring Tier, then Ling Han would've ran at once, but his opponent powered up by relying on the Strength Talisman, and his speed was no faster.

Besides, Senior Brother Ma suffered a heavy hit from the Fire-Eyed Bull's last strike, and his strength dropped drastically; his power under the Strength Talisman's support did not drop by much, but his speed was much less than in his optimal condition.

How could he land a hit on Ling Han?

Chapter 217: Eliminating with a Single Slash

Senior Brother Ma was roaring in rage. His opponent even had a child in his arms, yet he actually couldn't manage to do anything to him. This made him feel very depressed. Moreover, as time passed, he became even more anxious.

Firstly, a Strength Talisman could only last for about ten-plus minutes, and secondly, he had indeed suffered heavy injuries, and there was a need for him to immediately treat his injuries. Otherwise, the longer they were left unattended, the more serious his wounds would become.

"Junior Brother Yang, cooperate with me and we'll take down this brat together!" he called out.

"Agreed!" The other person also joined into the battle with his sword in hand.

Two elites of Gushing Spring Tier were actually ganging up on a single martial artist of Element Gathering Tier. If this was known to others, they would definitely be looked down on and disdained. However, these two men were obviously very shameless characters, and did not care about this fact any one bit. They only wanted to kill Ling Han as soon as possible.

But to their shock, they discovered they could not possibly achieve it.

Ling Han's figure was as slippery as a swimming fish, and they were completely unable to catch hold of him. They could only chase after him in vain and pointlessly waste their energy. And the more time passed, the worse the situation was for them.

"Brat, what kind of man are you to keep dodging? If you have the guts to, stand and face us directly!" Senior Brother Ma tried to provoke him.

"Are you an idiot?" Ling Han humped. "You already said you are

able to kill me in a single move, and I am still supposed to stand and face you directly? Do you take me for an idiot, or are you the real idiot here?"

"Damn you!" Senior Brother Ma howled in fury.

"However, I don't have the time to wait until you're exhausted, so receive a slash from me then!" Ling Han's face became solemn. The sword intent of the Mysterious Three Thousand circulating in his heart. He began to mull over this Style.

Instantly, an oppressive feeling as if a storm was about to arrive enveloped Senior Brother Ma and his last remaining companion.

"What kind of sword technique is this!?" Senior Brother Ma instantly looked shocked. In his eyes, it was as if Ling Han had become the center of the universe, and everything else in the surroundings had paled in color.

"Why is that I can't even move my body?" Junior Brother Yang was about to cry.

His opponent's sword was right about to strike him, yet he couldn't even move his body. Didn't that mean he could only wait for his death?

Ling Han smiled internally. He had used his divine sense to freeze the two of them, which created the illusion that they were unable to move. This was an influence to their consciousness. Usually, as long as one had a strong enough will, he would naturally not be affected.

For example, Can Ye. With the focus and concentration he had on saber arts, even if Ling Han was still in Heaven Tier, he would still be unable to shake Can Ye's will.

However, the two of them, due to their heavy injuries, already had very weakened wills. They were then shocked by Ling Han's six flashes of Sword Qi, and astonished by the strange amount of power a martial artist merely in the first layer of Element

Gathering Tier had. Their wills were naturally very strongly affected. As a result, Ling Han instilled his influence into the sword stance of the Three Styles of Black Origin, leading them into thinking that they were unable to move.

Mysterious Three Thousand!

Ling Han brandished his sword. Xiu, xiu, xiu . A few dozen flashes of light from the sword were shot out, solidifying into sharp blades that swiftly flew towards Senior Brother Ma and his accomplice.

Due to the pressure of death, Senior Brother Ma and his accomplice managed to get from under the oppression of Ling Han's divine sense. At this time, there was no longer any time left for them to flee. They flourished and whirled their respective weapons in order to block as much of this attack as possible.

Peng, peng, peng, peng. Every blade of Origin Power here was equivalent to a full-force attack from Ling Han. In other words, it was like there were over twenty Ling Hans ganging up on each of them. Who would be able to withstand such a barrage?

They managed to parry and shatter a few blades of Origin Power, but there were even more blades of Origin Power that managed to pierce into their bodies and ripped at them with terrifying, destructive power.

Ling Han flew past, and twirled his sword. Pu, pu . Instantly, two heads flew up into the sky before once again falling onto the ground, revealing the defiant and fearful faces of Senior Brother Ma and his accomplice.

Ling Han panted, and said, "No wonder that guy, the Sword Emperor, was so awesome. I have only grasped 1% of this one Style, and I can already kill two elites of Gushing Spring Tier."

He looked pensive, and thought, 'If the Heaven's Sword Sect still existed and found out that I learned the Three Styles of Black

Origin... they probably won't spare me, right? Would a sect that could foster out a monster like the Sword Emperor have a Shattering Void Tier warrior in their ranks?

I had previously thought that there was no one in Shattering Void Tier in this land, but now that I think about it, it may be that such powerful ultimate warriors preferred to keep to themselves and hid themselves away from the rest of the world.

It would be best to use the Three Styles of Black Origin as little possible, only if it was a matter of life and death or if I can ensure that this secret will not be exposed to anyone else!'

"Meat!" When he had been engaged in his thoughts, Hu Niu had already jumped out, and had started prancing around beside the Fire-Eyed Bull.

Though Ling Han had bought a considerable amount of demonic beast meat, but the majority was Level One and there was only a few from Level Two, what more Level Three. Thus, the little girl was practically salivating by now.

"You glutton!" Ling Han teased with a laugh.

"Niu is glutton!" Hu Niu nodded her head furiously, thinking that was a compliment.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and began to deal with the Fire-Eyed Bull. The Strange Fire kept transmitting its thoughts to him, impatiently wanting to refine and swallow those two eyeballs.

He first started a fire, then sliced off one of the bull's legs and began to roast it over the fire. Meanwhile, he also dug out the bull's eyes and held them in his left hand.

The Strange Fire gushed out and enveloped the eyeballs, which actually started shrinking at a very rapid pace. Just a few moments and they were turned into ash, whereas the Strange Fire ducked back into Ling Han's left hand and transmitted a thought that it had not eaten enough yet to Ling Han.

'These two gluttons!' Ling Han thought mockingly, as he appeased the Strange Fire, promising that he would look for more "food" for it in the future.

In just a short while, the bull's leg was exuding a tempting aroma. Ling Han drew out a dagger, sliced off a few slabs of beef and placed them onto a plate. That was the good thing about having a Spatial Ring—he could still carry with him such impractical things, for they would not occupy much space anyways.

Hu Niu immediately began to eat happily. She was a typical glutton. She had not yet swallowed the first piece of meat, when her hand would stretch out towards the second. She stuffed her mouth as full as possible, so much that it was difficult even to chew.

The whole body of a Level Three demonic beast was a treasure for the current Ling Han.

The tough hide of the bull could be made into defensive equipment that even sharp weapons instilled with Origin Power would find difficult to penetrate. And the beef, bones, and tendons were all very nutritious food, able to strengthen and invigorate the body, comparable to some treasured items.

Of course, the most precious were the eyes and the horns. However, the eyes had already been "eaten" by the Strange Fire, and only a pair of horns was left. They could be forged into weapons that had powerful destructive ability.

Upon a closer look, there was a pattern of seals that looked like writing on the surface of the bull's horns—it was precisely these seals that had gifted the Fire-Eyed Bull with such overwhelming destructive power. Otherwise, this pair of horns would only be harder than a normal bull's horns.

While Ling Han continued to eat his beef, he tried to activate these seals.

This was a very difficult thing to do. After all, each and every person had differing martial arts, what more when it was a completely different species. However, Ling Han was not any ordinary person. Soon, one of the seals lit up, then the second, and the third. A red light enveloped the horns, as if the bull's horns were burning.

Ling Han gave them a light wave, and a tongue of flame shot out strongly from the bull's horn, drawing a line of burnt marks that were three inches deep on the ground.

Chapter 218: Meeting Gu Feng Hua Again

So sharp.

Ling Han nodded. If destructive power was the only thing in consideration here, this pair of bull horns had surpassed the sword he was using now. Of course, if he was able to use a suitable Spirit Tool, then the destructive power at his disposal would definitely not be beneath this pair of bull horns.

"Burp!" Hu Niu burped and patted her little tummy in satisfaction. She had really not eaten much today because the beef of the Fire-Eyed Bull contained too much nutrition—even she would not be able to take it if she had eaten too much.

Ling Han was also very full. Though he had the ability of a martial artist in the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier, he was still in Element Gathering Tier in truth. Thus, the meat of a Level Three demonic beast was also extremely nutritious to him. Unfortunately, he had not brought any Spiritual Herbs with him. Otherwise, he would be able to make a pot of soup, and allow the various essences to mingle. That was what a really nutritious meal would be like.

He sat down and began to digest his meal, whereas Hu Niu began to run around. This was one of her own methods to absorb nutrition—the other was naturally to sleep.

After about two hours, Ling Han stood up and smiled. 'There has been a slight improvement to my muscles and blood vessels, whereas my cultivation has increased quite quickly.' Obviously, the more precious an item was, the more it could help to improve one's base. Those that could only increase cultivation could only be considered scraps.

'If I eat some meat of the Fire-Eyed Bull everyday, and swallow some alchemical pills as well, I should be able to truly reach the peak of Element Gathering Tier in about ten days. Then I will

break through to Gushing Spring Tier and unravel the secrets of the Black Tower.'

After he had dealt with the rest of the Fire-Eyed Bull, he stored everything in his Spatial Ring.

The two of them then continued on their way to the Ring-shaped Mountain.

On their journey, there was gradually more and more trees. There were even some villages, but they had been long abandoned, and there was no sign of life in them.

There were even some villas in the villages. They were very luxuriously decorated. Unfortunately, they were completely deteriorated, because who knows how many people had come to plunder them within these few thousand years; so, even if they had once been in a perfectly good condition, they would have been dug up and turned upside down later on.

It was said that the Great Clans of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North began to rise up after they first ventured into the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, and even managed to establish powerful nations, creating a base that endured for a few thousand years.

There were always those who were not willing to give up, and still continued to hunt around in the village. Who knows, they might be really, really lucky and discover a treasure that everyone else had somehow missed. There were also those who had ill intentions and lay in ambush in the village in order to rob those who had actually managed to find something.

In case of Ling Han and Hu Niu, one adult and one child, they didn't even have any baggage on them, looking completely impoverished. Thus, they didn't actually encounter any ambushes. They advanced smoothly on their way, and after another few days, they had arrived at the foot of the Ring-shaped Mountain.

Was this really a mountain?

Ling Han raised his head to look up, and doubt appeared on his face. That was because the slope was much too steep. Rather than calling it a mountain, it looked more like a wall.

But what kind of wall would be as tall as 1000 feet?

Was this the creation of an almighty warrior of Shattering Void Tier?

He sighed. He had never entered into a mystery realm in the past; otherwise, with his cultivation level of Heaven Tier, he would definitely be able to investigate the truth behind this place.

Because it was not easy to identify directions here, Ling Han and Hu Niu circled around the mountain. Anyways, there were only four ravines here, so they would at most only have to walk a quarter of a circle.

Two days later, they had still not managed to reach the ravine. Instead, there appeared a small lake in front of them, and Hu Niu instantly exclaimed about wanting to take a bath.

Ling Han had a Spatial Ring, so he could stuff all his clothes, food, and necessities inside, but he couldn't possibly bring along even his bathwater and bathtub as well. That would occupy too much space. They had already been in the mystery realm for five days. Hu Niu used to be filthy and hated bathing, but after hanging around with Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan for so many days, she grew to love bathing. Everyday, she would shamelessly wash herself clean, what more after five days of not taking a bath.

"Let's see if it's safe or not first," Ling Han said. He feared that there might be some dangerous demonic beast in the lake, or perhaps even the lake itself was a huge danger.

With a splash, the lake waters split open and a slender figure that had an astonishing beauty appeared.

Ling Han hurriedly pushed Hu Niu down and sat, thinking that he was probably going to get sties. He actually accidentally saw a

woman bathing. He lowered his voice, and said, "Niu Niu, let's wait for a while."

Hu Niu did not understand, and her small mouth was instantly pouting to express her displeasure.

There were bushes all around the lake which provided very good cover. When the adult and child sitting on the ground, there was no need to worry that they would be discovered. However, after a while, there was a sha, sha, sha, and the bushes shook. A man actually appeared.

The guy's backside was protruding, and he was half lying on his stomach on the ground. He kept looking in the direction of the lake, and crawled around in the meantime, seeming to be switching to different angles. As he peeped, he salivated and mumbled, "Indeed, one needs to change to different angles to admire a beauty to really enjoy it!"

Ling Han took a look, and could not help having a strange expression as he said, "Brother Pervert, why have we met again?"

The man was the self-proclaimed magnificent pervert, Gu Feng Hua.

Caught red-handed, Gu Feng Hua almost jumped up in his hiding spot. He turned around and spared Ling Han a glance, and a puzzled expression appeared on his face as he said, "How do you know I am a pervert? Could it be that my perversion is already as luminous as the sun, and has reached the level where others can spot it with one glance?"

"Brother Pervert does not remember me anymore?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

Gu Feng Hua stared at Ling Han for a while, then shook his head repeatedly and said, "You're not a beauty, so how could I possibly remember you? Yi, could it be that we share common interests?" His eyes lit up and he pointed in the direction of the lake.

"Brother Pervert is talking so loudly; are you not scared you will alert that young miss?" Ling Han asked, smiling.

Gu Feng Hua hurriedly covered his mouth and said, "You almost spoiled my big business. If that girl had discovered me, then wouldn't my efforts of tailing her all this while and taking advantage of her moment of distraction to scatter a handful of Itchy Powder on her, forcing her to have no choice but to take a bath, be completely wasted?"

Ling Han's mouth twitched as he said, "I am very deeply impressed with your determination, Brother Pervert! You are indeed very perverted!"

Gu Feng Hua looked very pleased with himself, and could not hold himself back from laughing out. Moreover, his laughter was getting louder and louder, and very hearty too.

"Who!?" The girl who had been bathing in the lake was naturally able to hear such a loud commotion. Shua , a white figure flashed past, and she had already dived into the bushes. She stretched out a delicate hand and instantly grabbed the clothing that she had hung on them.

After only a while, a flash of Sword Qi shot over, and the slash scattered sliced pieces of leaves flew all over. A young girl also arrived in a leap. There were still some droplets of water dripping down her hair, and her pretty face was filled with killing intent.

Ling Han picked up Hu Niu and leaped away together with Gu Feng Hua, avoiding this strike.

"Is every time you peek such a massacre, Brother Pervert?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

"Hey, don't wrong me! I am only a pervert, not a bad man. A thing like peeping has naturally nothing to do with me!" Gu Feng Hua said seriously, waving his hands around fiercely, pushing away all blame.

"Yo, if you two big brothers like me, then just say it. Seeing as big brothers are so handsome, I may not be unwilling to have some fun with big brothers, so what need is there for you to peep so secretly at me?" The girl did not get any results with her attack, and actually withdrew her murderous air, her expression all smiles.

She was not a virtuous girl.

Chapter 219: Implicated

Hearing the girl's words, Ling Han's impression of Gu Feng Hua instantly improved a considerable amount.

Using tricks to make a girl have no choice but to bathe, and take advantage of the chance to peek on her... this should have been a very despicable act. But from the moment the girl opened her mouth, he was sure that she was no decent girl, which proved that Gu Feng Hua still had his boundaries and had not used those kinds of tricks on decent, honorable girls.

As the saying goes, even thieves have their code of conduct. Though this was quite a bit different, but it was a kind of principle, after all.

...A pervert with principles.

Ling Han covered Niu Niu's ears, and said, "Does your family know you are so unrestrained, Miss?"

"Giggle!" The girl trembled lightly with laughter and cast a coy glance at Ling Han, then said, "Big Brother, could it be that you're interested in my master? Though my master is quite advanced in years, but she's still very attractive, exactly the type of woman that a young man like you has the least resistance to."

Ling Han shuddered, turned to Gu Feng Hua and said, "Pervert, this is your problem, you solve it!" After saying these words, he picked up Hu Niu and walked towards the lake. Now that the lake was no longer occupied, Hu Niu naturally could have her bath.

"Ya ya!" Hu Niu jumped down from Ling Han's arms and completely removed all her clothing in a few moments. With a splash, she had jumped into the lake and began to play to her heart's desire. "Ling Han, come play with Niu!" she said to Ling Han, acting spoiled.

Ling Han waved his hand with a smile. He had no desire to get

undressed in front of others, especially when that woman was so shockingly unrestrained in her behavior.

Peng! Peng! Peng!

Soon, sounds of battle came from the bushes and after a while, Gu Feng Hua came out with a swollen face that was not much different from a pig's head. However, there was no sign left of that girl.

Ling Han was curious, and asked, "That woman is only in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, so why is Brother Pervert cutting such a sorry figure?"

Gu Feng Hua threw a disdainful look at Ling Han and said, "A good man does not fight with a woman!"

Ling Han's mouth twitched. So that was why he had been so harshly beaten up... but that girl should have found out that Gu Feng Hua's ability was far above her. Thus, she had only given him a beating and ran off to avoid inciting Gu Feng Hua's killing intent.

In this mystery realm, the benefits of having a good background were much smaller. As long as you weren't caught, who would know if you had committed murder?

"Hahahaha, why has your cultivation level fallen to the first layer of Element Gathering Tier?" Gu Feng Hua suddenly laughed, then he scratched his head. "When other people cultivate, they become stronger and stronger. But the more you cultivate, the more you regress. Eh, you indeed have some potential to be a pervert."

Ling Han could not help but shake his head. Looks like if he did not break through to Gushing Spring Tier, his present condition would attract a lot of aggression towards him.

"That's odd. Though your cultivation level is lower, but why is it that the feeling you give me is even more oppressive than before?" Gu Feng Hua said, looking a bit baffled and scratched his head, seeming very puzzled.

"Haha, you are indeed a pervert!" In the end, he credited everything to his being a pervert. After all, as long as he was a pervert, anything odd could be easily explained away by him as being perverted.

Ling Han did not want to be stuck in confusion about this point, so he asked, "Didn't you go back into the mountains to cultivate? Why have you come here again?"

"On my way back, I've encountered a goddess and kept trying to hit on her. In the end, I ran into this place somehow, and was separated from that goddess." Gu Feng Hua suddenly startled, then said, "I won't chat with you anymore. I still have to go find my dream girl."

Xiu , he broke into a run, and in a mere moment, there was no sign of him left.

Ling Han shook his head, and drew some clear water from the lake to wash his face.

Hu Niu did not find it that fun playing alone in the water. Thus, she only bathed herself clean then ran onto the shore. Acting spoiled, she had Ling Han dry her and help her wear her clothes before she finally smiled sweetly.

The two of them continued on their way, and witnessed much bloodshed throughout.

This place also contained people of the Nine Nations. It was possible that there might be some who were not randomly transported when they entered, which meant that the people of a nation may appear in the same big area. However, as they get closer to the Ring-shaped Mountain, since there were only four ravines that connected into the mountain's depths, many of the people from different countries began to encounter each other.

Ling Han's principle was: if you don't mess with me, I would be too lazy to bother with you either. As someone who used to be an

ultimate elite of Heaven Tier, he was very indifferent to the idea of belonging to a country.

"Brother, help me!" However, he had not managed to maintain his attitude of minding his own business and staying away from trouble for long when he saw a young man swiftly racing towards him from the wilderness. There were two middle-aged men wielding sabers chasing after him, wearing fierce expressions.

One glance was enough for Ling Han to know that this was an attempted robbery and murder.

It was no wonder that this young man had fixed his eye on him. He was dressed very richly—his clothing was made using high quality silk, and the various ornaments hanging from his clothes were all expensive. He was obviously a member of a rich family, and due to the random teleportation, he was separated from the elders of his Clan when he entered this place.

And he was only in the fifth layer of Element Gathering Tier. That was like an idiot carrying gold and parading around in the streets. It would be strange if he had not attracted others coveting his wealth.

This young man acted as if he was a drowning man who had managed to grasp onto a life-saving straw, and he did not care even if Ling Han looked younger than himself and had a little girl by his side. He simply ran towards Ling Han while screaming loudly at him.

When it was a matter of life and death, his speed miraculously became quite a bit faster than normal, and very soon, he ran behind Ling Han and pointed at the two men that had chased him as he said, "Brother, help me chase them off, and I will definitely reward you handsomely."

"Yi?" The two pursuers stopped. One wielded a saber while the other held a sword, and they both gave Ling Han a glance before laughing loudly. "And here I was thinking that it was some kind of

powerful character. So it's just a little brat in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier!"

"What?!" the young man exclaimed in shock. Initially, he had thought that since Ling Han dared to bring a little girl with him and walk around so casually in this wilderness, he had to be extremely powerful. He had never thought that Ling Han was only in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier and was much weaker than even him.

Ling Han could not help but sigh. After merging the nine Nuclei, his cultivation level seemed to have dropped drastically. Not only his friends worried about him, but even others would look at him in disdain out in the wilderness. What a depressing thing.

"That's fine. We'll just kill them both!" The man armed with a saber looked fiercely at them.

Shua . His words had just left his mouth when he quickly shot forward, raising his sword to slash at Ling Han.

Ling Han merely raised his hand casually and the man's wrist fell into his hand. The man was only in the ninth layer of Element Gathering Tier, but even if they were at the same cultivation level, with Ling Han's Five Element Origin Nuclei, he would have several times the power of this man—what more when he had broken through to the tenth layer and had power comparable to the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

"Yi?" The saber-wielder struggled but felt as if it was a metal chain that was holding onto his hand, and could not manage to get free at all.

"Fatty, what's wrong with you? What's so fun about playing with a little guy? Kill him quickly!" the man holding a sword urged.

The saber-wielder was already breaking out into a cold sweat. In front of him, Ling Han's face was still very calm, and he even had a sliver of a smile on his lips. However, it was precisely this smile

that made him feel a coldness that seemed to penetrate into his body.

Da da da da... his teeth were endlessly clicking together as he said, "Old Zhang, come quickly and help me. This brat is strange!"

"What's so strange? He's just a piece of trash in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier!" the swordsman said disdainfully. "Fatty, this is not funny in the slightest. Kill off those two brats quickly."

Chapter 220: Vicious and Merciless

Ling Han casually threw a slap, and pa , the fatty wielding the saber was sent flying.

"Huh?" The swordsman, Old Zhang's expression stiffened. He thought that the fatso was showing off, but no matter how he showed off, there was no reason to take a slap from the other party —it instantly raised his vigilance.

"This kid is strange!" the saber-wielding fatty said as he got up, stroking his hurting face.

"Strange where?" Old Zhang asked.

"His strength is strangely large, when he held on to my wrist just now, I couldn't even get free," the saber-wielding fatso said truthfully with his face was on fire; if he tried to lie to save his face, it might get them both killed.

"Could it be an inborn gift like surprising physical power?" the sword-wielding Old Zhang speculated.

"It should be so. His presence is definitely just that of the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier," the saber-wielding fatso said with complete certainty.

Both men stared fiercely at Ling Han. "Kid, we originally had no grievances or hate, but if you must try to be brave, then it's you seeking your own death!"

Ling Han sighed as he never thought about helping. Adventuring here meant having resolve to face dangers, but who let that the youngster bump right into him with two middle-aged men who couldn't wait to attack them on his tail?

The fact remained that he looked easy to bully, and now that they've gotten a small lesson, they were beginning to take him seriously.

"Hu Niu, the skinny one is up to you," Ling Han said with a smile. He might as well let Hu Niu practice... the little girl had the Gushing Spring Tier guy from the Wu Clan running in circles the other time, so the guy in the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier before them shouldn't pose much danger to her.

"Good!" Hu Niu immediately jumped out. Other than eating, fighting and such were her favorite activity—except they had been in the Imperial City so far, thus Ling Han wouldn't let her fight.

"What!?" The sword-wielding Old Zhang almost got a crooked nose from anger. He let a five, six year old little girl fight him? He couldn't help but conceive a wicked idea—he was going to split the little girl in two and use her blood-soaked corpse to tell Ling Han what were the results of infuriating him.

"Kid, let's spar a bit more!" The saber-wielding fatso flourished his saber. "This time, I definitely won't underestimate you." Those words implied that he lost earlier only because he was careless.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "Your face still hurts, right?"

"You..." The saber-wielding fatty was instantly angered out of embarrassment; that slap certainly hit him hard, so much that it still stung.

"Since you know the pain, why can't you remember and learn?" Ling Han shook his head and laughed. "You are already a dead man since you unleashed your saber against me anyways; it matters not if you can't remember."

"Bullsh!t!" the saber-wielding fatso bellowed. With both his hands holding the saber's handle, he fiercely erupted with strong attacks. "Large demon heaven saber, splitting skies and shattering ground, I, Zhu Qian Kun am invincible..."

Pu!

He hadn't finished his warcry, yet his stomach had already received a heavy kick and his entire being instantly flew like a

cannonball. Peng , he fell heavily onto the ground and shrunk like a shrimp, his face convulsing.

Ling Han pulled back his leg. In this attack, he used 20-30% of his strength, but for a an opponent in the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, that much power was enough to be lethal. However, this fatso was so fat that the power was redistributed by large amounts of fat; unexpectedly, the kick didn't destroy his internal organs, but the skin on his entire body cracked under the immense shock, instantly turning him into a tragic blood-soaked man.

Even though his life was saved, the fatso could only groan, no longer having a shred of battle power.

On the other side, Hu Niu was playing very contently. Her cultivation progress was absurdly fast, and she was now at the seventh layer of the Element Gathering Tier. She went head on with the old sword user fearlessly, exhibiting a speed advantage over him and circling behind her opponent for a surprise attack; all this while, Old Zhang could not even land a single attack on her.

Shua shua shua... Hu Niu's hands were like tiger claws, and after several swings, Old Zhang's back was covered in fresh blood. The blood stimulated Hu Niu's murderous nature even further as she bared her teeth halfway and attacked even more ferociously.

Behind Ling Han, the youngster stared with his mouth agape.

A youngster in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier wasted an opponent in the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier with a kick, and a five, six year old little girl completely suppressed her opponent... what sort of monsters were these two?

After a moment's effort, Hu Niu slapped the sword user Old Zhang unconscious and laughed as she returned to Ling Han's side, reverting to her look of a cute and pure little princess.

Pa, pa!

At this time, the youngster used a rock to bash the fatso and old Zhang's heads into mush to make sure they died—even Heaven Tier warriors wouldn't survive that.

Ling Han couldn't help but look at him twice more; this youngster was quite vicious.

"Thank you, benefactor, for upholding justice and saving me!" The youngster quickly threw away the rock, and, with an expression filled with humility, he said, "I'm called Yang Ming, I'm from Stone Country. Please don't blame me, I was hunted down over a long way and almost lost my life. I had to at least do that much to vent the hate in my heart."

The two were mere robbers—if they died, then that was it; Ling Han did not care about them. What surprised him was Yang Ming's expression when he set about finishing them off without a shred of emotion, appearing utterly cold-blooded.

"Benefactor, could I tag along? I was separated from my family when I came in, but I believe I can definitely meet them at the central hall. When that time comes, my family's seniors will definitely repay you generously." Yang Ming looked sincerely at Ling Han.

Unsure of how long it'd be before reaching the canyon ahead, with multiple dangers ahead, it'd naturally be safer to cling to someone strong.

Ling Han smiled as he looked at the other. While this guy was talking all this drivel, he just wanted him as a bodyguard—he was not bad at hoaxing people.

Yang Ming saw that Ling Han was unmoved, then said unwillingly, "Benefactor, you know why those two were hunting me down?"

"Because you look like a fat sheep?" Ling Han laughed.

"That's only half." Yang Ming shook his head, and continued, "In

the village ahead, I was very lucky to have found an ancient record... but I soon bumped into those two and was hunted down by them.

I placed the ancient record on top of a dried up tree—as long as benefactor promises to protect me along the way, I'm willing to give you the ancient record."

Ancient record?

Ling Han pondered, and said, "What's that ancient record about?"

"I only briefly looked at it. The ancient record should be an indigenous inhabitant's diary, recording the details of the Ring-shaped Mountain," Yang Ming said, paused, then continued, "There's also a map inside!"

The latter words moved Ling Han. He was very interested in the depths of the Ring-shaped Mountain, wanting to investigate its secrets.

"Alright, let's get that ancient record." Ling Han nodded.

Yang Ming exulted at this reply; normally, a cultivator's like for "books" was related to arts and skills—they naturally would not glance at other books more than once. He was only making a bet, and unexpectedly, Ling Han actually gave him a promise.

Chapter 221: Logbook

They walked a bit on the outer ring of the Ring-shaped Mountain. Sure enough, Yang Ming took out an ancient record from a dried up tree. The cover had almost completely rotted away and it wasn't hidden very well—half of it showed.

Obviously, Yang Ming only hid it behind the tree trunk hastily at the time and shoved in the ancient record offhandedly, then immediately left; hence it was hidden so sloppily.

"Young Master Han, here." Yang Ming submitted the ancient record respectfully with his head slightly lowered, a hint of unwillingness that was hard to perceive in his eyes.

For normal people, this ancient record was worth nothing, but for some, it could be priceless.

Ling Han took it without hesitation. On their way, he told Yang Ming his name—hearing 'benefactor' and such all the time was uncomfortable. He started to leaf through it in front of Yang Ming without being evasive.

This was certainly a predecessor's logbook. The part at the start recorded some trifling matters; the person was called Xiao Ding, who was once a chief that managed a village, living a quiet life.

Xiao family had lived here for many generations, but a change happened in Xiao Ding's generation. The whole village was driven away from the mystery realm, but Xiao Ding stayed behind with an act of great deception.

He disobeyed the orders of one called "Demon Master" at the time, and entered the depths of the Ring-shaped Mountain, wanting to know why they were being expelled.

Relying on his understanding of the land, he avoided several barriers, which enabled him to enter the depths. However, he was unable to enter the depths of the core area as a mysterious power

infected him, making him feel like he wasn't himself anymore.

He immediately ran, but it was too late. By the time he escaped and reached his village, he was already unable to control himself, barely able to record what he experienced in the depths of the mountains—the diary ended there.

He probably died.

Xiao Ding recorded various restrictions, recording everything in immense detail. This was probably because he was afraid he'd forget something. In the end, he conjectured that a terrifying existence was suppressed within Devil Sky Mystery Realm, and the central hall was a backup array that reinforced the restrictions through blood sacrifice; perhaps it existed since the very distant past, but problems occurred in his generation.

Since the people in the mystery realm had all left, then what were the restrictions for? There was only one possibility—within was suppressed something of ominous origin!

Ling Han closed the logbook and sunk into contemplation.

From the looks of it, this mystery realm was very stable, so it shouldn't be a problem with the mystery realm itself like it breaking down. Then why were the people driven away back then?

In the past, a Blood Zombie appeared in Devil Sky Mystery Realm, and Xiao Ding mentioned "ominous origin" in the logbook, believing that here was imprisoned something terrible and evil... could the two be related? At the time, was it because the Blood Zombie's appearance that resulted in everyone's expulsion?

Mystery realms were created by Shattering Void Tier cultivators, but it didn't mean that every mystery realm had such a formidable person overseeing it... If Shattering Void Tier cultivators couldn't shatter the void to enter into divine plane, then they too would die of old age.

Perhaps, in the depth of this mountain were large amounts of

Blood Zombies that required the power of a Shattering Void Tier cultivator to subdue? However, inside Devil Sky Mystery Realm, there was no longer such a formidable cultivator; therefore, they were forced to leave, leaving an empty space—the mystery realm—to trap that thing.

"Young Master Han, can we depart?" Yang Ming carefully asked.

Ling Han nodded, and said, "Go."

The three set out, walking forward for half a day and finally seeing a large ravine from afar.

It was as if a heavenly saber split the Ring-shaped Mountain, literally splitting open a seam in the massive mountain, which was as if connected to the sky. The fracture that descended from the sky was terrifyingly surprising, even Ling Han could feel a hint of saber intent.

In previous years, there had to exist an exceptionally strong cultivator who struck four times, cutting the Ring-shaped Mountain into four sections.

'Shattering Void Tier, it definitely was a Shatter Void Tier cultivator,' Ling Han thought to himself. In his former life, even he didn't have such might; only the legendary Shattering Void Tier cultivators boasted such remarkable abilities that a sliver of saber intent could remain even after an unknown amount of years, not eroded by the time.

Too terrifying, a saber intent that could cross an eternity was unheard of.

Although the ravine was in view, it was further than it appeared; approaching it still required passing a long stretch of road. Since their target already appeared in their sight, they naturally had enough enthusiasm to speed up.

"Ah!" A tragic scream came from afar. Apparently, a fight was going on, a very usual thing here.

In a flash, six people, each with a sword, scuttled out from inside the jungle on the right. Each of them was as if they'd saw a ghost, terrified, only knowing to bolt for their lives.

Xiu , a black shadow passed through extremely quickly, and with a jump, it already caught up to a person, waving its hand toward the person's back of the head.

That person seemed to have no more courage left, not even daring to resist, just escaping frantically. But they didn't know it was impossible for them to match up to the black shadow's speed; instantly, their head took a hit, and with a pa , the entire head was in smithereens and hot blood gushed out.

A terrifying and disgusting scene appeared. The black shadow lunged on top of the body to suck the man's blood and gnaw on his flesh.

'Hiss!'

"Blood Zombie?" Ling Han frowned, automatically thinking about that evil thing.

"Wrong, wrong, wrong, this isn't a Blood Zombie, but a second tier Bronze-armored Combie." A youngster in black walked out the jungle. His face was dead pale without a hint of blood, giving off a feeling of a poltergeist in broad daylight.

In his hand were three metal chains that were drawn tightly, as if tied to something heavy, but which was hidden inside the jungle and therefore out of sight.

"Thousand Corpse Sect?" Ling Han knit his brows.

"What, you actually know of Thousand Corpse Sect?" The youngster in black stared at Ling Han, revealing a strong murderous aura.

Ling Han sneered, revealing a disgusted expression.

Thousand Corpse Sect was an unparalleled evil force. People

from this sect weren't strong themselves, but each refined a strong cultivator's corpse, then known as Corpse Soldier, commanding it like their own limbs; its battle power was exceedingly shocking.

The Corpse Soldiers were separated into three large stages, which were Bronze-Armored Corpse, Silver-Armored Corpse, and Gold-Armored Corpse. Each stage was further divided into first level, second level, and third level, for a total of nine levels that corresponded to the nine tiers in martial arts—from Body Refining Tier to Heaven Tier.

Where were the Corpse Soldiers of Thousand Corpse Sect from? Of course from stealing the corpses of martial artists—if the martial artist's strength was strong while living, then the Corpse Soldier made from his body would be comparable in power; a third level Gold-Armored Corpse could even compare to a formidable Heaven Tier cultivator.

In order to steal a strong corpse, Thousand Corpse Sect could be said as deranged and frenzied, not only digging up ancient tombs, but even stealing the corpses of strong cultivators buried not long ago. Consequently, this sect brought disgust to an overwhelming majority, and was once attacked by a coalition.

Ling Han assumed that Thousand Corpse Sect was annihilated; unexpectedly, its disciple came running out now.

Chapter 222: Thousand Corpse Sect

The black-robed young man stared at Ling Han. This young man could not possibly exceed eighteen years old in age, and was only in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier. Then how was it possible that he would immediately think of the Thousand Corpse Sect when he heard the words 'Bronze-Armored Corpse'?

Strange!

His name was Rong Huan Xuan, and he bore a blood feud on his shoulders. He was forced into desperate straits by another, but then there appeared a huge turnaround in his life. He had obtained the inheritance of the Thousand Corpse Sect and became the heir of the sect even after it had vanished for so many generations. To obtain his vengeance, he dug up the skeletal remains of one of the ancestors of his enemy's clan, refined them to become his Corpse Soldier and eliminated the entirety of his enemy's clan.

He had obtained his revenge, but he had also fallen captive to this feeling of being mighty. Not only had he not given up on this twisted path, he had instead ventured further and further along it. He began to cultivate his own Corpse Soldiers and search for new corpses to likewise transform and develop them.

"Young man, you know too much!" Rong Huan Xuan pointed, and that Corpse Soldier that had been devouring blood and flesh immediately stood up and stared at Ling Han and the rest.

This was an old corpse of unknown age. The flesh around its chest was long rotted, revealing the bones inside. However, the flesh on its head, hands, and feet was quite well-preserved and only half-rotted. But this only made it even more terrifying as lumps of flesh were just hanging there, faintly revealing the white of the bones underneath. It was terrifying enough to scare anyone with lesser bravery to death.

The Corpse Soldier had of course lost all sentience. However,

after being refined, it was equivalent to it having gained a second life—though it was only left with the instinctive need to devour blood and flesh in order to strengthen itself. Now that its meal had been interrupted, it was naturally enraged, and moaned at Ling Han and the others. Its chin made a ba da da da sound, as if it was about to fall off at any moment, making for an extremely terrifying sight.

"Kill them!" Rong Huan Xuan issued his command.

Xiu , that Corpse Soldier instantly leaped over, charging towards Ling Han and the others.

"A mere second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse!" Ling Han humped. His sword left its scabbard and stabbed towards that Corpse Soldier. With a ting , the blade scraped against the bones in the chest of the Corpse Soldier, creating a line of fiery sparks.

The bones of the Corpse Soldier actually remained unscathed, which was outside of Ling Han's expectations.

"Hahahaha. This second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse soldier has just about consumed enough flesh and blood and is about to evolve to the third tier, so how could it be so easily injured by a piece of trash in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier like you?" Rong Huan Xuan said coldly, making no move to interfere.

In truth, he was in Gushing Spring Tier. If he decided to make a move, then he would definitely be much stronger than the second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse.

Shua , that Corpse Soldier stretched out a clawed hand towards Ling Han's heart. Its movements were vicious and deadly.

Ling Han humped, and his figure swayed, actually avoiding that Corpse Soldier and coming face to face with Rong Huan Xuan.

"Then I will—" he jumped high up—"directly"—his sword slashed out—"kill you!" Six flashes of Sword Qi appeared in a dance towards him.

This slash was lithe and graceful, and had completely exceeded Rong Huan Xuan's imagination. How could it have possibly circled around a second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse and appeared right in front of him? When he snapped out of it, that sword together with the might of six flashes of Sword Qi had appeared right in front of him.

One had to understand that although Ling Han appeared to be only in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, his real ability was on the level of the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier. Moreover, his battle prowess was even a few more Battle Stars above that. How could his attack be so easily blocked by a mere second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse?

Rong Huan Xuan had paid the price for his underestimation of Ling Han.

But he was also a person who had crawled out of desperate straits and had a formidable will of his own. In the face of danger, he had instead become extremely calm. He suddenly opened his mouth and released a shrill whistle.

Weng, weng, weng. He actually sprayed out a puff of black smoke from his mouth, which transformed into an ancient letter that blocked the power of the slash, as if it had transformed into a shield. Peng , the might of the sword had reached its target, yet it continued to release muffled sounds, as it was actually being melted by that black smoke.

However, that ancient letter was also disappearing slowly. By the time the Sword Qi was completely destroyed, that ancient letter also swiftly vanished.

Rong Huan Xuan had already retreated thirty feet away. A faint flush had appeared on his face and he looked a little bit more healthier than before, but the killing intent in his eyes was also considerably stronger, as if he wanted to swallow Ling Han whole.

"Source Corpse Qi?" Ling Han gave a flourish of his sword, and

said with a little bit of pity, "I never thought that a mere martial artist in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier like you would have managed to form Source Corpse Qi." Otherwise, he would have used the Three Styles of Black Origin rather than attacking so casually like he had done just now.

"You even know about Source Corpse Qi?" Rong Huan Xuan appeared to be extremely shocked.

Ling Han had guessed that he was the heir to the Thousand Corpse Sect through the appearance of the Bronze-Armored Corpse. This was still easy to accept, because the Thousand Corpse Sect had been very "well-known" in the past, so they must have left behind a considerable amount of inheritance.

However, Source Corpse Qi... This was the secret technique of the Thousand Corpse Sect. If it was not someone who was extremely familiar with the Thousand Corpse Sect, there was no way he would know about it.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "You are already about to die anyways, so what's the point of spouting so much nonsense?"

Rong Huan Xuan looked enraged at this. He was an elite in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier. He had only fallen to Ling Han's attack previously because he had not expected that Ling Han would be so powerful, so how could he possibly make the same mistake a second time?

"You are indeed a bit strange. You are obviously in the first layer of Element Gathering Tier, yet your ability is comparable to the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier." He nodded in admission, then smirked coldly. "But I am in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, and it would be extremely easy for me to subdue you!"

"Is that so?" When Ling Han had been in the fourth layer of Element Gathering Tier, he had not cowered in front of an elite of the first layer of Gushing Spring Tier. Now that he was in the tenth layer of Element Gathering Tier, he would naturally not fear a

battle with an opponent in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier.

"Since a second tier Bronze-Armored Corpse can do nothing against you, then what about a third-tiered one?" Rong Huan Xuan laughed. He pulled sharply with his right hand. Qiang, qiang, qiang. The crisp sound of chains was heard, as if something heavy was being dragged out, and shockingly, there appeared three copper coffins.

"Three corpses?" Ling Han's eyes turned apprehensive, and he could not help but frown. "I've never thought you'd actually manage to cultivate three corpses!"

Every disciple of the Thousand Corpse Sect used Corpse Soldiers as their main weapon, and in theory, the more Corpse Soldiers one had, the better it was. But in truth, there was a limited number of Corpse Soldiers that could be controlled by every disciple.

Because after the Corpse Soldier had been successfully refined, it was equivalent to having obtained a second life. Though it was only left with bloodthirsty instincts, it was also violent and vicious, so how could it be willing to remain under the control of another? The disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect needed to use their Source Corpse Qi to control the Corpse Soldiers, but it was extremely difficult to form Source Corpse Qi. Thus, there was of course a limit to the number of Corpse Soldiers one could control.

Ordinarily, those in Element Gathering Tier could only control one, those in Gushing Spring Tier could control two, and only when one reached Spiritual Ocean Tier could he control three.

Rong Huan Xuan was only in the fifth layer of Gushing Spring Tier, yet he had somehow cultivated three Corpse Soldiers. This was extremely strange.

Ling Han was shocked, and Rong Huan Xuan was even more astonished, because Ling Han was even aware of the limitations of cultivating Corpse Soldiers! The reason why he could cultivate three corpses was because he had obtained the whole inheritance

of the Thousand Corpse Sect, which included a prized treasure. This was what allowed him to cultivate an additional Corpse Soldier in Gushing Spring Tier, and as his cultivation level advanced, the number of Corpse Soldiers he would be able to control would increase further and further, and be double the number any ordinary disciple of Thousand Corpse Sect would be capable of controlling.

He humped, and declared, "You are extremely strange, and I must eliminate you!" He clapped a hand onto the copper coffin in the middle, and peng , the lid of the coffin was instantly flung away as yet another Corpse Soldier leaped out of the coffin.

"Third tier Bronze-Armored Corpse!" he declared haughtily.

Chapter 223: Silver-Armored Corpse

Ling Han looked at the third tier Bronze-Armored Corpse, frowning slightly.

He might not be able to defeat a third tier Bronze-Armored Corpse, but it wouldn't be able to kill him, either. The key was that his opponent was pulling on three caskets; in other words, there was still one Corpse Soldier that didn't appear.

Another Bronze-Armored Corpse, or... a Silver-Armored Corpse?

Even a first tier Silver-Armored Corpse was equivalent to a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator. Ling Han was freakishly strong, but not so to the degree of being able to fight a Spiritual Ocean Tier head-on with brute force. Besides, Corpse Soldiers couldn't feel, did not fear death nor being hurt, and unless their head was blown up, they'd never lose their battle capability, making them extremely hard to deal with.

More importantly, Corpse Soldiers came from refinement. During this process, a Corpse Soldier's body became extremely durable, comparable to cast metal materials of the same tier. How would he break through it?

Thus, to completely kill a Corpse Soldier, one needed to surpass the corpse by an entire tier to shatter it completely through overwhelming power.

Ling Han's power right now was equivalent to the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, insufficient to take care of even a third tier Bronze-Armored Corpse, not to mention a Silver-Armored Corpse. Besides, even if he could instantly kill Rong Huan Xuan, Corpse Soldiers wouldn't die because the puppeteer was dead; on the contrary, they'd break away from control and kill based on their instincts.

However, Rong Huan Xuan was in the fifth layer of the Gushing

Spring Tier, not easy to kill anyway.

Ling Han cracked a smile, and said, "Inside your third casket, don't tell me there's a Silver-Armored Corpse?"

Instantly, Rong Huan Xuan's expression changed slightly, and he sneered as he said, "You know quite a bit about the Thousand Corpse Sect!"

Ling Han said no more and immediately bolted, grabbing Hu Niu with the left hand and carrying Yang Ming in the right hand. Xiu xiu xiu , in an instant they turned into a small black dot.

Sure enough, there was a Silver-Armored Corpse—to hell with fighting!

"Ah..." Rong Huan Xuan was dumbfounded, then let out a sky-shaking angry roar. He completely didn't expect Ling Han to run so decisively. "Good-for-nothing! Good-for-nothing!" he yelled at the two Corpse Soldiers in anger. However, Corpse Soldiers would only commence battle after he gave them the command to; otherwise, if they had their own intentions, they'd probably kill him first and eat his flesh and blood completely.

"Hmph!" After a while, he settled down, and said to himself, "It's nothing, that guy will definitely go to the central hall. I'll kill everyone there, and my three Corpse Soldiers will all level up.

I hear that there are Blood Zombies here. Their battle power is comparable to Flower Blossom Tier cultivators, if I can get three of those... hehe!

The Blood Zombie only appears when the blood sacrifice is insufficient. If I kill everyone in the central hall, then the Blood Zombie will definitely appear!

Haha, hahahaha!"

He kept laughing maniacally.

Only after Ling Han ran nearly fifty kilometers at a stretch did he stop, offhandedly throwing Yang Ming to the side and placing Hu Niu down.

Yang Ming was probably never treated in such a rough way—the veins on his neck popped out and he made a furious face, but as he thought about the difference in strength between him and Ling Han, he immediately suppressed his anger.

"Young Master Han, the ravine is right ahead. Let's go!" he said impatiently.

Ling Han nodded. His Dantian was unusually large—after he ran fifty kilometers at a stretch, he only used up nearly ten percent of his Origin Power, which could be quickly recovered by taking a second level Return Origin Pill.

...If people were to see it, they'd definitely scold him for squandering money. Return Origin Pills were definitely used during battle, because normally one would meditate to recover Origin Power, and where would one get the time to do that during a battle?

Ling Han was overbearingly rich and least lacking in medicinal pills, eating them casually.

They were certainly closer to the ravine; in a few minutes at most, they'd be able to walk to the entrance.

"Ling Han!"

From afar, someone waved at them, and quite a few people were there. After a close look, it was Qi Yong Ye and the others.

Ling Han sped up his footsteps as he walked over, only to see that other than Li Si Chan, Guang Yuan, and Li Hao and his partner, everyone who journeyed together earlier was here.

"Who is this?" They looked at Yang Ming.

"This humble one is Yang Ming, no one important." Yang Ming

hurriedly paid obeisance to the others, acting very humbly. However, when his eyes swept past Liu Yu Tong, a breath-taken expression flashed across his face, and he couldn't help but look twice more, finally lowering his head.

"This isn't a place to talk, we go in first!" Ling Han said seriously. Rong Huan Xuan could appear from behind at any time... Rong Huan Xuan himself wasn't a big deal, but the key was that he brought a Silver-Armored Corpse. In a place where Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators ruled, the Silver-Armored Corpse was almost an invincible being.

Everyone saw his solemn expression and none opposed, as they were all waiting for Ling Han to arrive anyways. Since the man of the hour arrived, why not leave?

On the way, Ling Han explained the incident regarding Rong Huan Xuan. Hearing it, everyone's hair stood up.

Corpse Soldier?

They've never heard of it, what the hell was that?

"The Blood Zombies here, could they be Corpse Soldiers?" Baili Teng Yun guessed.

"Possibly!" The others nodded in succession. This would explain why Rong Huan Xuan appeared; perhaps, there was Thousand Corpse Sect's inheritance here, and Rong Huan Xuan was here to take it.

"An inheritance like that, even if it's God Tier, I wouldn't want it!" Li Dong Yue shook his head like a rattle-drum.

The others also shook their heads in succession. Nurturing a corpse... just the thought of it gave them goosebumps. If they were really to 'enjoy' its company day and night, it was possible they'd puke themselves to death.

"Guang Yuan still hasn't arrived?" Ling Han frowned. The only person by his side that could go against a Silver-Armored Corpse

was Guang Yuan, and without that old fellow blocking in front, whoever encountered the Silver-Armored Corpse would only get shredded to pieces.

A Silver-Armored Corpse needed a Spiritual Ocean Tier's body to evolve, so they didn't even qualify as "food."

"Senior Guang Yuan was teleported near another ravine," Liu Yu Tong said with a bit of regret—the Spiritual Ocean Tier was the strongest force here. With Guang Yuan here, they would be a lot safer.

"Forget it, let's go!"

On the way, Yang Ming became livelier after he grasped everyone's situation, calling others brothers. However, he never leaked his identity, and no one was suspicious of him because of Ling Han.

This ravine looked like a stretch of sky from afar, but when actually walking inside, one would definitely be shocked by the ravine's scale... fifty kilometers long and around one kilometer in width, not to mention straight through and through just as if cut by a sharp weapon—no single place was even a bit wider or a bit narrower.

Several hundred kilometers was naturally no big deal for martial artists in Element Gathering Tier. After a long period of time, they walked past the long ravine, and a majestic hall appeared ahead.

At the first sight of the large hall, everyone revealed a shocked expression, for the edifice was floating in the air, connected to rows of stairs that were floating as well—an impressive spectacle indeed.

"So, so magical!"

Chapter 224: A Magnificent Turn

What a magical formation.

As a former Heaven Tier cultivator, Ling Han's interest was naturally placed on something else than the others'. The others were just shocked by this magical scene, but he found why the palace hall was floating.

Right below the hall was an empty public square, but this plain-looking square was not so simple. Vein-like lines formed an intriguing pattern with indistinct flashes of light on it.

Another look at the bottom of the palace, there were also corresponding vein-like lines shining faintly there.

Ling Han was amazed by it; though he has seen many formations that were used for either defense or attack, very few were of the antigravity type. This certainly looked grand, but for martial artists, this had no practical use.

This was the central hall.

Behind the large hall was a thick forest; they came just in time to see someone's silhouette disappear into the forest.

"Let's first go to the central hall to offer blood," Qi Yong Ye said. He counted as half-royalty and didn't wish for a calamity to occur in Rain Country in the least; this was the common view of those with a vested interest.

Everyone nodded. If a Blood Zombie really appeared, it would benefit no one.

They walked up the stairs, where there were many people from not only Rain Country, but also Rock Country and Fire Country. The nine countries had an unwritten rule which was that fights were prohibited in the central hall; letting the blood sacrifice go smoothly was of mutual benefit to the nine large countries. Whoever broke this rule would become the public enemy of the

nine countries.

Because the mystery realm opened again after more than three hundred years, everyone here naturally came for the first time, and while walking on the steps, they cried out in surprise. Many people only moved a step after a long while, shocked by the nature-defying construct.

Climbing step by step, their feet were suspended in midair by the steps underneath. As they got higher, they naturally felt unease, but also became excited because who else other than Flower Blossom Tier cultivators could fly amid heaven and earth?

Although it didn't count as flying, it was roughly the same feeling.

...Standing on top of the highest heavens and passing judgment on everything.

Ling Han was also a bit overwhelmed by emotions. It was no wonder a formation like this was created through painstaking effort, as it certainly felt more satisfying. To arrange such a large formation, the materials necessary also had to be extremely precious. Small countries like Rain Country and Fire Country couldn't make it even if they used the entire country's power.

There was a total of 3333 steps, yet it took them nearly half an hour to walk to their end. First, they were walking and gazing because it was so shocking, and second, there were too many people on the steps, so squeezing through all the way wasn't easy.

The large hall finally appeared in front of them. This was a building without four sidewalls and with a total of twelve massive stone columns supporting the ceiling; each stone column was nearly 333 meters tall, making this large hall appear extremely grand.

"Young master! Young Master!" A voice filled with surprise was heard. Three people squeezed out from the crowd, headed by a

sixty-year-old man with a relatively strong presence.

"Uncle Fu!" Yang Ming's eyes lit up. He instantly revealed a joyful expression and hurriedly greeted them.

"Young master, are you alright?" The three were all nervously looking at Yang Ming. This was Ao family's young master. If anything were to happen, they would definitely have to pay with their lives.

"I'm fine!" Yang Ming smiled slightly and turned around; his temperament changed drastically all of a sudden.

Although he was hitting it up with the others before, he looked like an underling. Now he was filled with grace of a person with high status, just like an ugly duckling suddenly turned into a beautiful swan.

"Everyone, please allow me to introduce myself again!" His eyes swept past everyone. "My family name is Ao, and first name is Yang Ming, I'm a direct disciple of Winter Moon Sect!"

Winter Moon Sect!

In the vast lands, sects and countries could not be randomly established. With only a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator to oversee things, an organization could only be called a faction. With a Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator overseeing things, a country could be established, and a sect needed an even higher tier.

...At the very least, a Flower Blossom Tier cultivator had to keep watch over it.

Winter Moon Sect was the closest sect near the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. It was rumored that a formidable Spiritual Infant Tier cultivator watched over it—even the Nine Nations of the Desolate North needed to be respectful of it, for if Winter Moon Sect got displeased, dispatching a random Flower Blossom Tier cultivator could sweep across a single country. And if a Spiritual Infant Tier cultivator personally stepped forth, even the

reclusive Flower Blossom Tier cultivators of the Nine Nations fighting together would only be put down in the end.

The higher the tier, the greater the difference a tier or even half a small tier made, not to mention a large tier's difference.

Qi Yong Ye and the others were shocked. Being a direct disciple meant that Ao Yang Ming's status in Winter Moon Sect was even nobler than that of the Eldest Prince and the Third Prince. It was no wonder he kept his identity secret on the way. He must've been afraid that after it was exposed, people would covet the arts and skills he cultivated.

Skills passed by Winter Moon Sect, just how precious was that?

Now, Ao Yang Ming had his family's protection, and naturally had no more qualms.

Surname Ao? Winter Moon Sect?

A coldness flashed by in Ling Han's gaze. Could this guy have any relations with Ao Feng? According to Ling Dong Xing, Ao Feng was distinguished and lived an unconventional lifestyle with countless illegitimate children, and because of that, his mother fled the marriage. If one were to say that the person in front of him was Ao Feng's love child, then that was completely possible.

He of course wouldn't be impudent and directly ask him. He just showed a faint smile.

Qi Yong Ye and the others promptly paid obeisance. This was a large sect's direct disciple—it was alright even if they couldn't be friends, but they definitely couldn't have a big argument; otherwise, it could bring their own families a disaster.

Ao Yang Ming was expectedly arrogant, placing his attitude extremely high. Except when he looked at Liu Yu Tong, his gaze became gentle, and he said, "Lady Yu Tong, do you have any interest in joining Winter Moon Sect?"

Joining Winter Moon Sect?

Everyone was shocked, revealing an envious expression. Moon Winter Sect, joining such a sect could give one the chance to step into Spiritual Pedestal or Flower Blossom Tier, maybe even Spiritual Infant Tier.

Of course, just by the looks of Ao Yang Ming inviting only Liu Yu Tong, one would know what sort of idea this guy had planned.

Undoubtedly, Liu Yu Tong was one of the two most beautiful in the Imperial City—beautiful like an angel. It was not surprising that Ao Yang Ming fell for her.

"No!" Liu Yu Tong declined without thinking at all.

She knew that Ao Yang Ming fancied her good looks, but even if he really valued her natural aptitude, she wouldn't agree. Firstly, what sort of art was she cultivating? Heaven tier!

Would Winter Moon Sect give her Heaven tier art to cultivate? Putting aside whether they had it or not, even if they had it, they wouldn't easily pass it onto outsiders.

Secondly, following Ling Han, she didn't need to worry about medicinal pills. That guy was not far from becoming an Earth Grade alchemist.

Thirdly, and most importantly, she was not willing to leave Ling Han.

With the third condition, it was enough to overturn everything.

Ao Yang Ming was originally certain that Liu Yu Tong would agree, but never did he expect her to reject it so straightforwardly. It turned his expression instantly into an awkward one. He looked at Ling Han and revealed a sneering smile from the corner of his lips. On the way, he obviously saw that Liu Yu Tong had feelings for Ling Han.

Then he'd first have to trample on Ling Han to show that the latter was worthless!

Chapter 225: Turn Against a Friend

Ao Yang Ming looked at Ling Han with a faint smile at the corner of his lips and said, "Ling Han, shouldn't you return the ancient record I lent you earlier?"

Lent?

Ling Han smiled as well, and asked somewhat surprised, "Lent? Old Brother Yang Ming, could it be that you forgot this was the price for saving you? And, weren't you just calling me Young Master Han here and there? Now you're directly calling me by name, aren't you too quick at changing your attitude?"

Some things were unspoken rules that everyone secretly knew, but it couldn't be laid out on the table, like when Yang Ming pretended to be an underling because he lacked in strength. If he still acted like a great young master, then it was guaranteed he'd be killed in seconds.

...Oh, you say you're the direct disciple of Winter Moon Sect? Show me the proof.

Not to mention the ability to produce the proof, even if it was possible, since he offended Moon Winter Sect's disciple, why not just kill him instead of inviting trouble?

Therefore, Ao Yang Ming naturally acted humbly, and everyone understood why; however, Ling Han laid it bare in public, not giving him any face.

Ao Yang Ming's face suddenly had a hint of haze; the old man known as Uncle Fu was burning with murderous spirit, taking a step out to say, "Young man, what nonsense are you saying? Speak carelessly and offend my family's young master again, and I'll definitely spill your blood all over!"

"Hehe!" Ao Yang Ming softly stopped Uncle Fu, and said, "Uncle Fu, Ling Han walked alongside with me. He can talk nonsense, but

I can't forget our old friendship."

"Yes, Young Master is generous. This old servant admires you greatly!" Uncle Fu said with a bow, looking just like a slave.

This old man was a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator. In this small world, he was one of the top-notch cultivators, and as long as they flaunted their identity as Winter Moon Sect, even Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators needed to give some face.

Qi Yong Ye and the others frowned. This old man completely submitted to Ao Yang Ming, and if Ao Yang Ming were determined to oppose Ling Han, then the situation would be far from good. This Ao Yang Ming was truly shameless. Clearly, Ling Han saved him; forget it if he wasn't grateful, but he went as far as to point the muzzle at Ling Han!

Don't burn the bridge after crossing it... he was a typical base person.

Ao Yang Ming looked again at Ling Han, and said indifferently, "Ling Han, hand over the ancient record and we're still friends, otherwise..." He didn't continue, but Uncle Fu showed a terribly ferocious look, displaying most vividly his dog-slavish appearance.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "When you've got problems, you call me young master Han, and when you don't, you call me Ling Han. Could you be a chameleon? Ao Yang Ming, since when were you my friend? Are you fit to be?"

Ao Yang Ming's expression changed abruptly, and Uncle Fu stepped forward again, ready to strike, but Ao Yang Ming reached out and halted him. This young man's expression was cold like water as he looked towards Qi Yong Ye and the others, and said, "Everyone, you've all seen Ling Han's arrogance. Do you still want to walk down the shady path? This young master will give you all a chance to sever your connections with Ling Han, and stand behind this young master. Otherwise... you'll be enemies of Winter Moon Sect!"

Those were quite some big words—Winter Moon Sect's enemies? Even those who controlled the eight large families would feel a chill in their hearts, let alone Qi Yong Ye and these juniors. That was a superpower with Spiritual Infant cultivators, and them dispatching a random Flower Blossom Tier could create a massive disturbance for Rain Country.

Although Ao Yang Ming couldn't truly represent Winter Moon Sect and move Flower Blossom Tier cultivators, Uncle Fu, who stood behind him, alone could suppress all of them.

Moreover, Ao Yang Ming could attack absolutely unrestrained, yet would Qi Yong Ye and the others dare to harm him? If Ao Yang Ming didn't reveal his identity, then killing him would be nothing—no one would know, or have to worry about Winter Moon Sect's revenge. But how many people were in the large hall now?

Especially with Fire Country's martial artists, they would be extremely happy to see Rain Country's people and Winter Moon Sect come into conflict, and better yet, draw out Winter Moon Sect's elders, wiping away Rain Country with a single hand.

Only able to take a beating and with no way to retaliate—how would one fight a war like that?

Ao Yang Ming sneered. He wanted Ling Han to taste betrayal and isolation, then physically attack him, making him break down completely.

Qi Yong Ye and the others were indecisive, but Jin Wu Ji was the first to stand by Ling Han's side, his expression resolute.

Only with Ling Han's great assistance was he able to get together with Jiang Fei Yan—if he betrayed Ling Han now, would he still be called a man?

Can Ye walked over with an emotionless expression. He honored his words; a promise was like the weight of a mountain. Since he agreed to be Ling Han's sidekick, before he could kill Ling Han

with one slash, he'd never betray Ling Han.

With the two as an example, Qi Yong Ye and the others were naturally affected; considering that they all had a great social status, Ao Yang Ming wouldn't be so rampant as to kill them all, would he?

With that thought in mind, they all stood by Ling Han, giving no face to Ao Yang Ming.

Watching one after another walk to Ling Han's side, Ao Yang Ming's expression fell, and his eyes seemed to be about to spout fire.

Were these people blind, rejecting a direct disciple of Winter Moon Sect and instead clinging onto Ling Han? Although Ling Han certainly was a bit weird, possessing a strong battle power, he was still an Element Gathering Tier martial artist when all was said and done.

"Good! Good! Good!" Ao Yang Ming planned to upset Ling Han by making him feel betrayal, thinking Ling Han would lose himself, and in this way, Liu Yu Tong's positive feelings about Ling Han would definitely drop.

But now, the one who was humiliated was instead him.

How could he stand this emotionally?

"Ling Han, you're not going to hand over what's mine, right?" he said threateningly with murderous aura like a saber.

"Wrong, that was money used to buy your life. Want me to hand it over? Fine, but exchange for it with your life!" Ling Han said indifferently. As a former Heaven Tier cultivator, the pride and unyieldingness in his bones was tougher than anyone else's. Moreover, Ao Yang Ming was also a Winter Moon Sect's disciple that could be Ao Feng's son, so he had even more reason not to be polite.

"How dare you!" Uncle Fu immediately yelled out with fury in his

eyes, filled with murderous aura.

This time, Ao Yang Ming did not stop him and instead placed his hands behind his back, appearing extremely pretentious.

Uncle Fu understood, and approached Ling Han slowly step by step; his murderous aura was getting fiercer and fiercer. He intentionally tried to give Ling Han enormous pressure, attempting to make this junior collapse under the pressure.

Qi Yong Ye involuntarily took a few steps back. Though they were on Ling Han's side, their relationship wasn't so good as to fight a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator; that was simply suicide.

Ling Han didn't have such intentions either. He already prepared a Swift Cloud Talisman, and at the crucial time, he was ready stick it on and run.

"Ah..." Just when things were about to ignite, a tragic scream came from below. A dark shadow rushed into the crowd, peng, peng, peng , the nearby people were shaken like rice straws, limbs and blood splattering everywhere.

Rong Huan Xuan's figure appeared. He was still dragging three bronze caskets, but all three corpse soldiers were already out and on a killing spree!

Chapter 226: Power of the Bronze Casket

Other than Ling Han and Ao Yang Ming, the other people didn't know about Rong Huan Xuan's background. Seeing that Rong Huan Xuan was actually slaughtering people in the central hall, the people there were shocked and infuriated.

This kid dared disobey the common law of the Nine Nations, and kill people here publicly!

Moreover, he was obviously not seeking revenge on anyone, because the three Corpse Soldiers were basically on a indiscriminate killing spree. They killed whoever they saw and ate whoever they killed, filling people with fear and disgust.

"What the hell are these things?" Not everyone had such rich experience like Ling Han. Seeing three things that were supposed to be dead full of life and appetite, they couldn't help but stare blankly and feel their worldview breakdown.

"Could it be the Blood Zombies?" someone said with a trembling voice.

The Blood Zombie was originally a myth, but if it really did appear, then it'd be completely within reason.

As those words came out, quite a few people were frightened out of their wits.

Back then, when the Blood Zombie came into being years ago, it almost annihilated the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, forcing the nine recluse Flower Blossom Tier cultivators to cooperate and sacrifice their lives to kill the Blood Zombie.

...To kill it, Flower Blossom Tier cultivators had to die with it!

What abilities and status did they have to fight against such an existence?

"No, no!" Someone immediately saw the discrepancy. "This

strongest monster is only in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it isn't a Blood Zombie!"

"You're right, it's just in the Spiritual Ocean Tier." Many more people saw through the three corpse soldiers' strengths. "One in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, one in the Gushing Spring Tier, one in the Element Gathering Tier."

"Nothing to be afraid of!"

The masses gradually calmed their minds. Though there were people coming and going, and ten people with the cultivation of the Spiritual Ocean Tier were present—could they not take care of it ten-on-one?

Discovering that the corpse soldiers were nothing to be afraid of, Uncle Fu also calmed down, and swiveled his gaze back on Ling Han. A chill seeped from the corner of his lips as he said, "Junior, come kneel and beg for forgiveness before my young master. I can still plead on your behalf to spare your worthless life."

"Oh, if you like being someone else's lapdog, then that's that, yet you still act all high and mighty... I honestly don't know from where you get that sense of superiority!" Ling Han shook his head. "I'll just take that I saved an ingrate."

"Impudence!" Uncle Fu was enraged, finally deciding not to toy with Ling Han anymore and just kill him mercilessly.

Peng, peng, peng, peng, the three corpse soldiers attacked in their direction. Under the guidance of the Silver-Armored Corpse, they completely swept everything before them. Rong Xuan Huan carried the bronze casket, following behind; it was not known why he kept carrying such a heavy thing.

"Hahaha, let's see where you'll run off to now!" Rong Huan Xuan stared at Ling Han, full of murderous aura.

What the?!

Qi Yong Ye and the others were in cold sweat; they felt that Ling

Han was too good at finding trouble.

Just look, a Spiritual Ocean Tier had yet to be taken care of, and here came another one!

Rong Huan Xuan swept a glance at Uncle Fu, and said coldly, "Get out of my way!"

Uncle Fu was trembling in anger—a mere fifth level Gushing Spring Tier dared tell him to get out the way? Where did he get such confidence? He sneered and said, "Junior, you're dead for sure!"

Shua , the Silver-Armored Corpse's figure flashed, and it struck at Uncle Fu with a claw, radiating an indistinct stench.

"Corpse poison!" Uncle Fu called out in surprise. As a Winter Moon Sect disciple, his knowledge and experience was naturally above that of normal people.

"That's right. My Silver-Armored Corpse has fourth level corpse poison. If you get tainted by it, then I promise you'll die through and through!" Rong Huan Xuan laughed out loud.

"Junior, there's no hatred between us, why must we fight to the death?" Uncle Fu attacked consecutively, yet he found no way past the Silver-Armored Corpse defense. He attacked continuously, yet it didn't dodge or evade; its body was stable like Mount Tai, and he couldn't even disrupt its pace.

This made his courage drop a lot, thinking about suing for peace.

"This guy is mine!" Rong Huan Xuan pointed at Ling Han and said, his gaze filled with confusion and curiosity.

He wanted to know how Ling Han had such a deep understanding of Thousand Corpse Sect.

"Hmph, heterodox doctrines, everyone has the right to punish you!" Several other Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators appeared, each with a displeased expression. They were all from the Nine Nations,

and now an outsider suddenly came and slaughtered their disciples —how could they endure it?

"Kill the user and these monsters will automatically be defeated," a Spiritual Ocean tier said.

"Yes!" The others all agreed.

Rong Huan Xuan laughed loudly and said, "You're mistaken, you're all going to die and become my Corpse Soldiers' food! Go, kill! Kill! Kill!"

"Attack!" Several Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators jumped out and launched attacks towards Rong Huan Xuan.

This kid had the cultivation of a mere fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, how could he possibly be these Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors' opponent? He'd definitely die in one move, and when the master died, these corpse puppets would naturally meet their end too.

Really, what an idiot!

"Hahaha, you guys think I'm an idiot?" Rong Huan Xuan sneered, and jumped right into the bronze casket. The half-opened casket immediately closed, emitting a crisp sound.

"Idiot!" the Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators sneered. Could he escape disaster just by running into a casket? What a joke, they just needed to attack the casket, and Rong Huan Xuan would easily be shaken to pieces because of the powerful shock waves.

"Die!" A Spiritual Ocean Tier attacked, swatting forward.

A thought flashed across Ling Han's mind; he immediately yelled out, "You mustn't!"

It was already too late. That Spiritual Ocean Tier's right hand already swatted on the bronze casket... however, even if Ling Han had yelled out a bit earlier, it wouldn't have been of any use. Who would believe a junior in the Element Gathering Tier?

Weng , inky black thread-like lines shone on the casket and formed a strange seal. It looked like a word, but also like an image —it was quite difficult to distinguish.

The black light flared up, and this seal flew out at a surprisingly fast speed, sinking into the Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior's chest.

The Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior turned around blankly with an expression of disbelief. He reached out as if to grab something, but his arm feebly drooped down.

...On his chest was a shocking large black wound. The black was spreading quickly, apparently boasting a strong corrosive quality; soon, it corroded a transparent hole in his chest.

Pa , the Spiritual Ocean Tier fell to the ground weakly, but the corrosion didn't stop and continued upwards to his shoulders and head, and downwards to his legs and feet. Within just a few breaths, he was completely gone, leaving only a pile of black water behind.

Although there were nearly ten thousand people here, when they saw the scene, they revealed horrified expressions, feeling chills throughout their body; even their jaws started to shiver.

It was a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator who died in such an incomprehensible way, and so tragically.

Ling Han sighed inwardly as he knew that these three caskets should be Thousand Corpse Sect's largest inherited treasures, which were high-level spirit tools that would activate once attacked, shooting out black light that could instantly kill a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator—they were extremely terrifying.

No wonder Rong Huan Xuan dragged the three caskets with him wherever he went.

Chapter 227: Liu Yu Tong's Choice

"You guys go first!" Ling Han said to Qi Yong Ye and the others.

"And you?" Liu Yu Tong asked hurriedly.

Ling Han smiled. "I won't go for now, but I'll quickly catch up to you guys!"

"Hahaha, you won't be able to leave!" Rong Huan Xuan's droning voice came from inside the bronze casket. "You all must die and become my Corpse Soldiers' food!"

Ling Han ignored him, and said, "You guys go, that way I won't have to worry!"

Qi Yong Ye and the rest nodded and left. They didn't know why they believed Ling Han firmly; it was as if this boy had an ineffable charisma that made them involuntarily follow what he said.

When they backed Ling Han, part of it was due to his charismatic personality.

"Kill, don't let a single one go!" Rong Huan Xuan yelled from inside the bronze casket.

The Silver-Armored Corpse immediately cast aside Uncle Fu and stood guard at the exit, killing whoever thought to escape. It had battle power of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, even exceeding nine stars in battle prowess. While it couldn't use any techniques, it had lethal corpse poison instead, which was even better than techniques against people who were at lower tiers—one sweep killed an entire crowd.

"Stop it!" several Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators yelled out. The juniors here were from their country; moreover, it involved the blood sacrifice problem. If it prompted the Blood Zombie to appear, then it truly would be a big incident. Thus, Eight Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators fought the Silver-Armored Corpse together. "Everyone, leave the large hall immediately, and if you see other

people on the way, tell them to change paths and head to other central halls!"

With the eight people blocking the Silver-Armored Corpse, the other people finally got the chance and fled continuously out the hall.

"Go!" Ling Han said to Liu Yu Tong.

"If you don't go, then I won't go!" Liu Yu Tong clenched her teeth as she said.

"Hmph, quite affectionate!" Ao Yang Ming sneered. "Uncle Fu, take them down!"

"Yes, Young Master!" Uncle Fu quickly nodded and stared coldly at Ling Han, approaching step by step.

"Time to go! Hold onto me!" Ling Han carried Hu Niu in one hand while yelling out to Liu Yu Tong.

Liu Yu Tong's face reddened, but she clung onto Ling Han without hesitation. Smelling his strong and manly smell, she felt her heart thump fiercely, almost jumping out from her throat.

"Go? Where do you think you're going?" Uncle Fu sneered. He was already blocking their way to the hall's exit—was Ling Han still going to force his way through?

Ling Han dashed swiftly; with only a few steps, he was already at the edge of the hall. This hall had no surrounding sidewalls, and he could jump out whichever way. Only the direction of the entrance had flights of steps, as for the other three directions... well, sorry, that's several thousand meters height; below was the concrete plaza, and jumping down from this height led only to death.

"Uncle Fu, bring them back!" Ao Yang Ming yelled out at once. Ling Han's death didn't matter, but if a beautiful woman like Liu Yu Tong were to fall and turn into a bloody mess, how unfortunate would that be?

"This old servant understands!" Uncle Fu scuttled to the edge of the hall. He reached out with his hand, forming a massive hand made of Origin Power, grabbing at Ling Han at an incredible speed. Spiritual Ocean Tier was Spiritual Ocean Tier after all; as his hands opened up, he already reached Ling Han's back.

Seeing this, Liu Yu Tong grit her teeth and revealed a determined expression.

Ling Han noticed it, and said at once, "Don't be reckless!"

However, Liu Yu Tong ignored him, and pushed Ling Han with both hands. Xiu , Ling Han fell faster, and she rammed into the large hand. Ding , she unleashed her sword, and sliced at the massive hand made of Origin Power.

The difference in strength was just too great. That massive hand clenched and Liu Yu Tong was easily captured. However, due to her action, Ling Han was already out of the massive hand's furthest reach, so it could only roll back with Li Yu Tong in hold.

Pa , Uncle Fu threw Liu Yu Tong offhandedly to the ground and said to Ao Yang Ming, "This old servant has failed you, please punish me, Young Master!"

"No matter, that guy will face certain death anyways!" Ao Yang Ming scowled. He only cared for Liu Yu Tong; so what if Ling Han fell into bits? The ancient record wouldn't break from the fall, so he could just pick it up from the corpse later.

However, his face instantly revealed an astounded expression, because Ling Han opened up a large umbrella as he fell and the speed of his descent slowed immediately; it was as if a cotton wad was floating in the air and into the distant forest.

Now, with this detour, even if Uncle Fu immediately chased out the hall, Ling Han would've already fallen into the forest. That was a natural barrier, and how would he find Ling Han after that?

"Damn it!" he immediately hollered, but when his gaze swept pass

Liu Yu Tong, a smirk appeared at the corner of his lips. With this hostage in hand, he wouldn't have to worry about Ling Han hiding forever and not coming out!

In the distance, Ling Han's gaze was as if it could penetrate space, falling on Ao Yang Ming's face.

At this moment, a fierce killing intent was born in his heart.

Ao Yang Ming automatically felt a chill within, but he immediately thought that with his identity, he had no need to fear this boy. Thus, he straightened his back at once.

Ling Han mouthed a few words, and didn't look again, falling into the forest.

"Look, you risked your life for him, yet he didn't even look back once more," Ao Yang Ming said to Liu Yu Tong. This was naturally the time to drive a wedge between them.

Liu Yu Tong was unmoved and looked deridingly at Ao Yang Ming, and said, "He'll come save me!"

"Oh, save you on what basis?" Ao Yang Ming sneered, "A mere trash with cultivation in the Element Gathering Tier."

Liu Yu Tong said no more, as if holding Ao Yang Ming in contempt.

Ao Yang Ming was furious and about to flip out, but heard Uncle Fu say, "Young Master, it's dangerous here. Let's talk after we leave!" Ao Yang Ming could only nod, and say, "Go!"

The party left the large hall. They heard from afar the fierce sounds of the battle between the eight Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators and the Silver-Armored Corpse, and a worried expression surfaced on their faces.

Ling Han put away the Blood Sucking Origin Gold, his expression gloomy as he walked along. Hu Niu sensed the rage hidden

underneath Ling Han's calm expression, and bared her teeth as if about to bite someone.

'I can't not save my attendant! However, if I go as I am now, it's equivalent to suicide!' Ling Han thought as he walked. 'The only way is for me to break through to Gushing Spring Tier and obtain the Black Tower's one-time power-up blessing. With the power of the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, I'll find a chance to activate 10,000 Techniques Return to One, killing that old dog with a strike!'

10,000 Techniques Return to One cultivated to an extreme was essentially forging a thousand sword strikes into one, which allowed Ling Han to kill someone above his tier. However, this move required a terrifying amount of Origin Power; it was impossible for Ling Han to perform now, but with Spiritual Ocean Tier's power, it was definitely possible.

"No matter what, I must break through to Gushing Spring!"

Ling Han set his resolution, found a covert place in the thick forest, and began the last power accumulation.

Within his Dantian, the origin nucleus hadn't reached the extreme, but he needed at most only three days. He now was charging through with full force, and it was very possible that within two days he would reach Element Gathering Tier's true extreme.

Two days, he only needed two days time!

Chapter 228: Forming a Spring

Ling Han charged toward the bottleneck with full force. Hu Niu also seemed to have received a shock; surprisingly, she wasn't raucous and started cultivating too.

The two were both on the freakish level—Ling Han spent two days to reach the peak of the Element Gathering Tier, whereas Hu Niu reached the peak of the seventh layer of the Element Gathering Tier, not far from where Ling Han was.

"Break!" Ling Han took out a few medicinal pills and threw them into his mouth all at once.

He didn't need to comprehend the next tier; as long as he had enough energy to support him, the door to Gushing Spring Tier would open.

"Break!" Hu Niu's tender and sweet voice followed, and she began to charge toward the eighth layer of the Element Gathering Tier in a similar manner.

Within Ling Han's body, an earthshaking change was happening.

A small tier's increase was only the difference of one more origin nucleus. Even if he reached the tenth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, fusing nine large origin nuclei into one super-large origin nucleus, that was still a change in origin nuclei.

However, from Element Gathering Tier to Gushing Spring Tier, it was a qualitative change—a completely new change.

Transforming origin nucleus into a spring of Origin Power, a gushing Origin Power.

Crossing this step, a martial artist's power would increase ten times!

Power didn't equal battle prowess, but it made up the core of the battle prowess. Without strong power support, how could one

form battle prowess that overwhelmed all others?

Ling Han had enough knowledge of the next tier, so breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier was supposed to be easy, but the truth was not so.

...That was because he had only one origin nucleus.

His experience was based on the breakthrough with nine origin nuclei in his previous life, but now it turned into one. That changed it completely, and all his experience became useless. However, knowledge of the next tier was still useful; it was just the method that needed adjustment.

The method was essentially the same—turning the origin nucleus into a spring; but, what was different was that while breaking through with nine origin nuclei, one could use the other eight nuclei as supportive power. Now, he could only use one, and his power source became a problem.

His personal strength couldn't be used, so he could only shove medicinal pills down his throat.

Ling Han waved his hands continuously while ingesting medicinal pills, and the medicinal power came into effect within his body, forming a massive power like a tsunami that could crush mountains.

Waves of abstruse power rushed into Ling Han's body. This was because his tier was sufficient, and so was his comprehension of the next tier. Heaven and earth resonated, continually softening his origin nucleus like the ripples of water.

The power of heaven and earth already came into effect; next, it was all up to him.

Turn into a spring!

Ling Han initiated the Five Elements Mix Chaos Lotus to absorb the surrounding spiritual qi, and on top of the medicinal pill's power, he continued to attack the origin nucleus, attempting to

liquidize it into the spring's eye, the source of power.

This step was very hard, unlike in case of the normal Element Gathering Tier with eight other nuclei as supportive power which made it much easier. Now, he could only rely on medicinal pills and spirit base to absorb power; it was truly too little.

It was his own decision to break through to the tenth nucleus that gave him immense strength, so he naturally had to pay a corresponding price.

Shua, shua, shua, Ling Han kept shoving down pills, even taking in the Four Transformations Pill that could only be used at Gushing Spring Tier in order to provide the terrifying amount of energy needed to transform the super-origin nucleus into a spring.

Normal people's origin nuclei turned into a spring one by one, and the last nucleus transformed at ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. At that time, there would be eight springs of Origin Power to provide power, and one truly only needed tier comprehension—power needs were nothing important.

However, Ling Han's one and only origin nucleus was larger than other people's nine origin nuclei combined, and not just by a tiny bit, for his large origin nucleus was made up of nine origin nuclei, which in turn comprised five small nuclei, totaling forty-five!

The energy needed was simply like that vast ocean.

Eat! Eat! Eat!

Ling Han swallowed Four Transformations Pills continuously. Crack , under the violent energy's rush, his skin cracked and veins popped, seeping out large amounts of blood. Four Transformations Pills were used to increase cultivation at the Gushing Spring Tier, but taking it now was almost equivalent to suicide—even Dead Tree Body could not withstand their power.

Lone Wolf's Blood, activate! Indestructible Heaven Scroll, activate!

His body was quickly recovering, but at the same time, the violent rush of medicinal effect constantly damaged it. This sort of pain was definitely not endurable for normal people, but Ling Han didn't even frown a bit and just withstood it while gritting his teeth.

How could the road to the peak of martial arts be a smooth one?

If he couldn't even withstand this bit of pain, then how could he speak of shattering void to become a god?

Moreover, the harder it was to break through, the stronger would be the power gained after he succeeded.

This time, the Black Tower didn't help, and just quietly floated up and down within his Dantian, surging with mysterious brilliance.

Ling Han, neither happy nor sad, just kept attacking.

Dripping water could penetrate a rock—under his continuous efforts, the origin nucleus finally began to liquidize.

With a pop, the origin nucleus dissolved entirely, turning into a tiny spring eye with torrents of Origin Power gushing out.

He succeeded!

Ling Han, however, did not stop. The spring eye was just the start, and he needed to stabilize his cultivation; otherwise, this spring eye would soon dry up, turning into an origin nucleus again and dropping him back to Element Gathering Tier.

At this point, there was no difference compared to normal Gushing Spring Tier... expanding the spring's eye until the limit, it could transform into a vast ocean of Origin Power, thus known as Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Other people needed to transform their origin nucleus one by one into a spring eye, and then connect nine spring eyes into one, expanding them into an ocean. However, Ling Han only had one

origin nucleus and could only form one spring eye, so how would his tier be counted?

Ling Han couldn't help but think to himself that others were probably always going to think of him as first level Gushing Spring Tier, right?

Whatever, he needed only strength.

The spring eye opened up, continuing its expansion until Ling Han's spirit power was fully used.

Gushing Spring Tier!

Weng , the Black Tower gently whirled as if sending some sort of signal. On the tower's body, infinite threads lit up, forming a pattern of simple characters that he couldn't read. Yet, it contained an indescribable marvel profoundly inscribed.

Ling Han was excited; was the Black Tower finally opening up to him, revealing all its secrets?

For him, there was nothing more that he thirsted for than to understand the Black Tower's secrets, for this arrogant idler killed him in the previous life and kept him in an ineffable condition for ten millennia. It would be truly odd if he didn't feel anxious.

Xiu , Ling Han felt his spirit spasm slightly, finding himself inside an unfamiliar space.

This place looked very much like a farmland. There were chunks of mud on the ground, but this place had no plants, appearing extremely infertile. The sky was very high, but there was no sun nor clouds to be seen. It was somewhat similar to a mystery realm's sky.

Where was this? How did he suddenly end up here?

Ling Han was amazed. He lifted his hand to touch his face, which felt extremely real.

In other words, it wasn't just his spirit that came here!

How was that possible!

Ling Hang was somewhat muddled. Could he have instantly been teleported here by the Black Tower? The Black Tower had a teleportation function?

Chapter 229: The Black Tower Opens

Weng , the Black Tower appeared, floating up and down in front of Ling Han.

The Black Tower!

Ling Han was deeply moved. Since seeing the Black Tower ten millennia ago, this was his second time using his physical body to view the Black Tower, realizing thoroughly that he lived twice as human.

"Wrong, I am not the Black Tower you saw ten millennia ago, but the Black Tower's spirit." Small Tower ¹ seemed to hear Ling Han's thoughts and unexpectedly, it gently swayed, telepathically sending a thought right into Ling Han's consciousness.

What!?

Ling Han was shocked as he asked, "You're a spirit? Then where am I?"

"Of course within the Black Tower," Small Tower said.

Ling Han was somewhat confused as he said, "The Black Tower is within my Dantian, yet I'm within the Black Tower, how is that possible?"

"Take a look at your Dantian," Small Tower said.

Ling Han looked within his Dantian, yet found that the Dantian was already empty and devoid of the existence of the Black Tower.

"You've entered inside the Black Tower, and the Black Tower naturally resides in the world you're in," Small Tower said indifferently. In actuality, its intonation had always been dull, without a trace of emotion.

"Hu Niu!" Ling Han was startled. The massiveness of the Black Tower was something he had seen, and it also had mighty abilities; a ray of light it sent shattered him, who was a Heaven Tier in his

former life, to death. Hu Niu, who was meditating by his side, couldn't possibly have been crushed to death, right?

Even if she wasn't crushed to death, with the little girl's savagery, she'd definitely pounce and bite back fiercely. The result of that would be inconceivable, too.

"Don't worry, after you entered the Black Tower, the Black Tower itself turned into a speck no different from dust, and no one shall realize the difference," Small Tower still spoke in a dead man's tone.

Ling Han let out a sigh of relief, then patted his own head and said mockingly, "Why didn't I feel it odd that a spirit suddenly came out to talk to me...? Wait, are you saying that I'm inside the Black Tower?" Ling Han suddenly came to a realization.

"Yes," Small Tower said calmly.

Ling Han's jaw instantly dropped, and he said, "How's it possible! The Black Tower can turn into a speck of dust and has a spirit, which means it is a spirit tool. Then, the space it forms should be the same as that of the spatial ring, so how can it contain living beings?"

"The space here is a separate world created by it—naturally, it can contain living beings. What's so strange about it?" Small Tower said indifferently.

Ling Han was shocked, and then revealed an expression of wild excitement.

The Black Tower could contain living beings and turn into the size of a speck of dust; what did this mean? When he faced danger, he could enter the Black Tower, similar to how Rong Huan Xuan could hide in the bronze casket.

The difference was that the internal space of the Black Tower was who knows how much larger, and it could become infinitely small; enemies wouldn't know what happened, and might assume

that he knew how to teleport.

A godly item, this definitely was a godly item! He had never heard of a spatial vessel that could contain living beings and change its size. Moreover, he was already wearing a spatial ring on his hand!

One had to know that spatial vessels couldn't be stacked, meaning that a spatial vessel couldn't be put into another spatial vessel. He was now inside the Black Tower, yet the spatial ring was still on his hand. This meant that the two things could be stacked.

"Can I bring others inside?" Ling Han asked.

"Yes!"

"How?"

Small Tower used its will to teach Ling Han how to bring in other things—which included living humans and other living beings. The key was that living beings couldn't have any thought of resistance, or else he had to first knock the being out.

Xiu , Ling Han's body flashed and reappeared in the forest in the outside world. Hu Niu was at a loss, looking around, and when she saw Ling Han appear, she pounced at him and said, "How come Niu couldn't find you earlier?"

Ling Han laughed mischievously, and said, "I'll take you somewhere, don't resist."

"Oh." Hu Niu nodded, not really understanding.

Ling Han grabbed onto Hu Niu and followed the method Small Tower transferred with its will earlier—with a thought, xiu , he and Hu Niu already appeared inside the Black Tower.

"Wow!" Hu Niu revealed an astounded expression and couldn't help but open up both arms and run in this vast space. She giggled as she ran, seeming to be extremely lively.

"Can you see what's weird with this little girl?" Ling Han asked

Small Tower.

Small Tower trembled lightly, as if nodding, and said, "I received a heavy injury, and do not possess any of my past memories."

"What!?" Ling Han cried out. The Black Tower lightly trembled and annihilated him when he was once a Heaven Tier cultivator, but a godly tool such as this received a heavy injury, even losing all its past memories... then who exactly attacked it?

"I have an indistinct feeling that my existence will attract the covetous eyes of many, so before you possess peerless strength, you mustn't reveal my secret," Small Tower said coldly.

Ling Han nodded. Not to mention the Black Tower, the Indestructible Heaven Scroll alone weighed heavily; he wouldn't reveal a shred of that secret even if beaten to death.

"But, are you really called the Black Tower?" he asked.

Small Tower trembled lightly, and said, "I already lost all my memories, even of my name."

Ling Han couldn't help but be depressed. He thought that after he broke through to Gushing Spring Tier, he could understand the Black Tower's secrets. He would've never thought that other than getting a "castle" that he could carry around, there didn't seem to be any other changes.

Of course, this castle was enough to even make Shattering Void Tier cultivators envious and risk everything to get it.

"The Black Tower totals nine layers, and when you reach certain strength, you'll be able to open the corresponding layer, with each layer having different functions," Small Tower said.

Ling Han immediately revealed a joyful look, and said, "What sort of functions?"

"My memory is already lost, so only after you've opened a new layer of the tower will I receive the corresponding information,"

Small Tower said unhurriedly. "Thus, I can only tell you now the first layer's function."

It paused for a bit, then said, "The first layer is a medicinal garden; the spirit grass planted here will grow as if one year is equivalent to that of a thousand years."

Pu!

Ling Han suddenly choked; one year equaled a thousand years? 'If I wanted a thousand year old ginseng, then wouldn't I only have to wait a year?'

"I have blurry memories, but after opening a certain unknown layer, I can further accelerate it," Small Tower supplemented.

Ling Han almost jumped in joy.

There were two problems that troubled alchemists.

First, the standard of pill refinement; you couldn't let a Earth Grade alchemist refine a Heaven Grade medicinal pill. Second, the ingredients; even a skillful housewife couldn't cook a meal without rice, and so even a Heaven Grade alchemist couldn't refine Yellow Grade medicinal pills out of thin air.

And the higher the medicinal pill's grade, the higher the requirements for spirit grass were too, frequently requiring hundred year or thousand year old ingredients; some highest grade spiritual plants even needed to be ten millennia old!

There were only so many spirit grasses in the world. Harvesting from generation to generation, were there still so many thousand year old and ten millennia old plants left?

A hundred year old plants were already rare!

However, the Black Tower could easily solve this problem. Spirit grasses raised here for a year were equivalent to a thousand year old spirit grasses in the outside world; it was even possible to accelerate it further after opening a certain layer.

Nature-defying!

It definitely was a godly item!

Chapter 230: Finding People

This was only the first level of the Black Tower's abilities.

Ling Han was utterly shocked. It was no wonder Small Tower said to strictly keep the Black Tower's secret, because once leaked, the entire world's strongest cultivators would chase his butt to fight for the Black Tower.

"Say, we're already so familiar, could you give me more one-use power-up chances?" Ling Han cottoned up to Small Tower.

"No!" Small Tower trembled lightly, as if to shake its head.

"Why, we're all on the same side, you don't think it'd be taken by someone else?" Ling Han patiently continued with his persuasion.

Small Tower shook again, and said, "That's not so. The power-up process is actually remolding your body once, you can only endure it once per tier. One more will hurt your foundation. The third time is certain death."

"I cultivate the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, it shouldn't be a problem," Ling Han said.

"The Indestructible Heaven Scroll is imparted by the Black Tower, so how can you rely on what the Black Tower imparted to resolve the pressures the Black Tower adds onto you?" Small Tower said.

That made sense.

Every tier, he could only get one power-up.

"The later it is, the better for a power-up, as it increases your physical qualities more," Small Tower said.

Ling Han nodded. With regards to this, Small Tower was the expert, and he could only comply. He couldn't help but be depressed, since he originally thought that after he struck up a relationship with the spirit, he'd have full control of the Black

Tower; he never thought that he'd only be able to enter the first level.

Fortunately, the first level's functions already made him overjoyed, and he looked forward to finding out just how surprising the abilities of the second and third level would be even more.

Only after Hu Niu ran a circle did she stop by Ling Han's side, and looked at Small Tower whilst tiling her head, appearing extremely curious. "Niu wants to play!" She pounced towards Small Tower.

Xiu , her figure went right through Small Tower's figure, as if Small Tower didn't exist.

Duh. A spirit was originally an existence like a soul spirit, so how could it be touched?

"Time to find Ao Yang Ming for some revenge!" Ling Han flashed out of the Black Tower. Although he didn't fully control this treasure that was far beyond a spiritual weapon, it didn't matter. His thoughts and the Black Tower were connected, and Small Tower could contact him at any time.

He first returned to the central hall to see if he could find the whereabouts of Ao Yang Ming's party.

On the way, Ling Han listened to Small Tower describe some details regarding the Black Tower. For example, if he entered the Black Tower, then it was equivalent to perfect protection. No amount of power could hurt him, and no perilous environment could hurt him either.

Of course, this was only limited to this world.

Ling Han was certain that above this world was a greater world, which was the world that Shattering Void Tier cultivators entered after reaching the extreme. However, the two worlds obviously had an obstruction that was extremely hard to cross separating them; at least, in Ling Han's previous life, he never saw a 'god

spirit,' and never even saw a living Shattering Void Tier.

Anyways, it was impossible to encounter such a strong being right now. There was no need to worry.

Besides, inside the Black Tower, he had absolute power because he was the master of the god tool... he could fly; he could teleport; he could change the rules within the Black Tower at will, as if he were the Heaven Tier cultivator in former days!

No, even more badass than a Heaven Tier, because Heaven Tier's wouldn't have the ability to teleport and couldn't change rules.

It could be said that even Sword Emperor's life would be at Ling Han's mercy, unless Sword Emperor's strength already transcended that of the Black Tower.

Ling Han soon arrived at the central hall. Looking from afar, the crowded tide of people was already no longer present. Presumably, Rong Huan Xuan hadn't left, and was currently waiting for opportunities.

Ling Han wouldn't want to use his one chance of power-up on a Corpse Soldier, and the pressing matter was to save Liu Yu Tong.

He circled in the vicinity, but couldn't find Ao Yang Ming's whereabouts.

The mystery realm was similar to the size of a country; just how difficult was it to find someone in here?

With Ling Han's thought, Hu Niu already appeared by his side. After the little girl slept enough, she was bored and alone inside the Black Tower, making a hue and cry to be let out.

He held onto Hu Niu's hand, and planned to find others to question.

After a while's walk, there was nobody in the surrounding. Ling Han couldn't help but be disappointed and muttered, "Where did those guys go?"

"Ling Han, who are you looking for?" Hu Niu asked.

"Yu Tong and that brat Ao Yang Ming," Ling Han said thoughtlessly.

Hu Niu raised her hand and said, "Niu knows!"

"Niu Niu knows?" Ling Han somewhat doubted.

Hu Niu made a sniffing motion, and said, "Niu can smell it out!"

Ling Han was astonished. Although he knew that beasts had a keen sense of smell, this little girl only grew up with a fierce tiger—could that really have raised her sense of smell? Anyways, he had no idea which was the correct direction, so it couldn't hurt to listen to the little girl.

"Alright, you lead the way!" he said.

Hu Niu was happy all of a sudden, immediately walking towards a direction.

Ling Han followed, and the two traveled stop-and-go; when they stopped, it was either because Hu Niu was hungry or because she was sniffing out the smell. After two days like this, Hu Niu's movements slowed and sharpened.

"Almost found her." So she said.

Ling Han nodded. Hu Niu maintained the preying habit of beasts, and the closer she got to the prey, the more cautious she was. He said, "Niu Niu, go play in the tower first, I'll play with you after I save Yu Tong."

"Yes! Yes!" Hu Niu nodded repeatedly, and let Ling Han put her into the Black Tower.

Ling Han carried onward, and in less than a moment, he saw five tents up ahead. He jumped onto a large tree, carefully observing.

After a long time, he saw Ao Yang Ming, Uncle Fu, and the other two attendants come out of the tents separately to start a campfire to cook rations and dried meat. When the savory smell was

emitted, Ao Yang Ming walked in front of a tent, and opened it to say something that couldn't be heard. After a while, Ling Han saw a girl come out. It was Liu Yu Tong.

"Hmm?" Uncle Fu frowned slightly, jumping out fiercely like a large bird and landing under the tree where Ling Han hid.

"Uncle Fu, is something wrong?" Ao Yang Ming asked.

Uncle Fu looked up, but there were just pieces of green leaves, and no shred of peculiarity. He turned his head and said, "This old servant was overly sensitive." He felt a presence surge that caused him to leap out, yet found no one.

He was confident that within such a short distance, no one in the same tier could escape from his eyes; Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators couldn't enter, so he judged he must've been overly sensitive.

The old man walked back, slumped down, and looked at Liu Yu Tong. He said in a displeased manner, "Lady Liu, my young master has treated you sincerely, why don't you know what's good for you?"

"Uncle Fu!" Ao Yang Ming waved his hands hurriedly to stop Uncle Fu from continuing. He then looked at Liu Yu Tong and smiled as he said, "Uncle Fu's just worried for me, don't blame him, Yu Tong!"

Chapter 231: Blurred Vision?

Liu Yu Tong just laughed coldly.

She complied perfectly with eating and sleeping, and hastening on with travel. She didn't go on a hunger strike or refuse to move faster, but when she didn't need to speak, she definitely wouldn't speak; this made Ao Yang Ming feel like a tiger biting on a turtle, depressed from not knowing how to approach.

He was into Liu Yu Tong, and wanted to use his identity, status, and strength to move Liu Yu Tong; however, in Liu Yu Tong's eyes, he didn't even exist, driving him crazy.

This time, it naturally ended with Ao Yang Ming feeling depressed. Liu Yu Tong returned to her tent after she finished eating, acting like a guest.

"Hmph!" The smile on Ao Yang Ming's face immediately disappeared, and he turned ashen.

He spent such a long time yet couldn't even subdue a woman, almost losing his patience. Before this, as long as he flaunted his status as Winter Moon Sect's direct disciple, what woman would not immediately dive into his arms?

Even if some woman pretended to be aloof, he only had to act a bit cold for the other person to immediately dive into his arms out of panic.

This was his time-tested experience with picking up girls.

However, Liu Yu Tong completely ignored him after he exhausted all his methods.

Uncle Fu moved closer as he said, "Young Master, the key still lies in that youngster."

Ao Yang Ming nodded; if Ling Han didn't die, then Liu Yu Tong would think of Ling Han, not letting him into her heart. However,

Ling Han definitely ran as far as possible, so how was he going to find and kill Ling Han?

More importantly, the ancient record was still with Ling Han!

His memory wasn't bad, but it didn't reach the level where he could memorize an entire ancient record just from reading it once, not to mention the numerous pictures, which naturally made memorizing it even harder.

Winter Moon Sect was very interested in Devil Sky Mystery Realm too, but the time interval between each time the mystery realm opened was too long and not fixed, so it was very hard to occupy. He just happened to come to Rain Country and coincidentally encountered the mystery realm's opening, so he set aside the proper business and entered the realm.

He couldn't care less about Blood Zombies; no matter how chaotic it became, it was a matter of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. Besides, Winter Moon Sect had Spiritual Infant Tier ancestors that oversaw it, so even if a Blood Zombie came to their doors, they would easily kill it.

Thus, he really wanted to explore the depths of the mystery realm—maybe there would be an enormous opportunity that awaited him.

He originally had great luck and obtained a local's logbook, but he was hunted down after only flipping through a few pages. He could only hide it whilst he ran, and didn't expect he'd have to offer it in return for being saved by Ling Han.

He was humiliated and lost the ancient record—those two reasons alone made him want to kill Ling Han.

"That brat probably won't appear again," Ao Yang Ming said fiercely. Without the ancient record's map as guidance, this mystery realm was filled with crises at each step. Even with Uncle Fu's protection, he still didn't dare venture deeper.

The four talked for a while, then returned to their own tents.

Ling Han watched it all unfold inside the Black Tower.

With Small Tower's guidance, he could basically control the Black Tower, like how he could watch and hear the surrounding environment even though he was in the tower. Of course, this had a distance limitation.

He was almost discovered by Uncle Fu earlier, and when he entered the Black Tower, Small Tower told him that he could 'monitor' the situation outside while within the Black Tower, undoubtedly saving him a lot of trouble.

From a certain perspective, the Black Tower could be considered his clone, except he didn't have full control of the latter, because there were eight levels that weren't open to him yet.

Xiu , he appeared from within the Black Tower and walked softly towards Liu Yu Tong's tent. However, he only walked two steps, soon entering the Black Tower.

A figure flashed by, Uncle Fu dashed out from within a tent, and wore a strange expression.

Just now, he heard a faint movement, but saw nothing when he ran out... where was the culprit?

He absolutely wouldn't believe there was anyone who could escape from his area of perception in such a short amount of time, so naturally, he felt it extremely odd. Two times he misjudged, which made him undoubtedly question himself if he'd gotten blurred vision...

The old man stood idly for a while, and then shook his head, walking back into the tent. However, only a few breaths later, he dashed out in a flash again, looking around to confirm that there was nobody, and then walked back into the tent again.

The old man was extremely suspicious.

Although Ling Han thought that, if it were he who felt the restriction was touched in his garden, then he definitely wouldn't doubt himself; someone definitely must've entered, and if he didn't realize, then the other person's concealing methods were superior.

He appeared again, and without walking two steps, he flashed back into the Black Tower, disappearing once again.

Uncle Fu appeared, and the expression on his face was even stranger. He subconsciously patted his head once, feeling like he was driven mad. This time, he stood outside for a longer period of time—at least five minutes—before he turned to enter the tent.

Ling Han appeared, and jumped into Liu Yu Tong's tent in one step.

"Ah!" Liu Yu Tong immediately yelled out in surprise.

This instantly caught the attention of Ao Yang Ming and the others. They jumped out of their tents one after another, and Ao Yang Ming could be heard saying, "Lady Yu Tong, what's the matter?"

"It's nothing, I just had a nightmare!" Liu Yu Tong looked at Ling Han with a gaze of disbelief whilst suppressing the shock in her heart and doing her best to speak calmly.

The four others outside had no suspicions; who could've thought someone actually snuck in? They returned to their own tents one after another.

"It's too dangerous here, just leave!" Liu Yu Tong said in an extremely quiet voice.

"Don't worry, since I have the ability to come in, I have the ability to leave too," Ling Han said with a smile. "Call Ao Yang Ming over."

Liu Yu Tong's eyes instantly lit up and she said, "We're using him as hostage?"

Ling Han didn't actually plan on that. After acquiring the ability to hide within the Black Tower, he never even thought of using his only chance for a power-up on an old dog like Uncle Fu. Based on his current abilities, it was enough for him to get away.

He didn't explain and said, "First call him."

Liu Yu Tong nodded and settled down, raising her voice, "Young Master Ao, could you come over for a chat? Yu Tong has something to ask."

Right after her words were spoken, Ao Yang Ming immediately scuttled out wearing a proud smile.

As it turned out, Liu Yu Tong's resistance was merely so; she still ended up compromising, didn't she?

He was actually used to seeing beautiful women. Though Liu Yu Tong was remarkably beautiful even amongst the beautiful, it was rather that he couldn't put down his pride. He was successful in all his endeavors with women but bumped into a wall with Liu Yu Tong, which made him persistent and determined to conquer her.

However, once Liu Yu Tong revealed her intention to compromise, his interest decreased by a lot; it was just like the people say—what we can't have is what we want the most. However, he didn't truly obtain her yet, thus he was still quite excited, immediately tidying up his appearance and walking over to Liu Yu Tong's tent.

Uncle Fu did not move, since Liu Yu tong's cultivation had already been sealed, so she couldn't pull any tricks.

Chapter 232: Take Down

"Yu Tong..." Ao Yang Ming just opened up the tent, and soon saw a youngster smiling at him, giving him a shock. "Ling Han!" he cried out.

Xiu!

Uncle Fu instantly rushed out; his mission was to protect Ao Yang Ming.

Too late!

He saw Ao Yang Ming had already fallen into the youngster's hands, and a sword laid on Ao Yang Ming's neck as a few drops of blood trickled down Ao Yang Ming's skin. He could only stop in place.

Ling Han was now a genuine Gushing Spring Tier with nine large origin nuclei fused into one super origin nuclei that formed into a spring's eye, just how many times stronger was he than a normal first level Gushing Spring Tier?

He had Five Elements Origin Nucleus to begin with, and his power was four to five times higher than people of the same tier. On top of this, his power was at least ten times higher! Even if the difference between stages in Element Gathering Tier was greater, he could at least rival fifth level Element Gathering Tier solely in terms of power.

...This was also because he just broke through, and didn't reach the peak period of the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier! Moreover, it was without counting various arts and techniques that could bring his battle prowess up. Concerning true battle prowess, he definitely surpassed nine stars.

A nine star Gushing Spring Tier against an Element Gathering Tier, would that not be as easy as the swipe of a hand?

"Ling Han!" Ao Yang Ming gnashed his teeth, a fierce and

irritated expression on his face. He had thought Liu Yu Tong finally submitted, but to think she'd set him up instead. In other words, Liu Yu Tong still chose Ling Han.

This realization was simply a violent slap to the face.

"Let go of young master!" Uncle Fu said coldly, his eyes full of killing intent. He finally knew that the suspicious movements he felt earlier were not him seeing wrong because of blurred vision, but it was this guy's superior methods deceiving his eyes.

Ling Han smiled slightly, and said, "Old man, don't you scare me. I'm timid, so once you scare me and my hand slips, don't blame me if your young master's neck gets slit open."

He intentionally wobbled his hand, and a drop of blood immediately oozed out from Ao Yang Ming's neck, turning into a pearl dripping down.

Uncle Fu's face was full of fright as he said, "Stop!"

"You're scaring me again!" Ling Han said pretending to complain, and shaking his hand even harder.

Uncle Fu was at wit's end; taking a step back, he said, "Youngster, we can talk this out."

Ao Yang Ming, however, appeared very arrogant, and said, "Ling Han, I am Winter Moon Sect's direct disciple, if you dare touch a single hair on me, then Winter Moon Sect's power will crush you and everyone around you into pieces!"

Pa!

Ling Han slapped Ao Yang Ming heavily on the head and said, "Stray dog, from where do you get this feeling of superiority? I'll slap you till you're awake!"

"Ling Han...!" Ao Yang Ming squawked. Growing up till now, he had never been slapped on the head, making his eyes redden, wishing deeply to tear Ling Han to shreds.

"What are you screaming for!" Ling Han snorted, and knocked Ao Yang Ming out with a karate chop.

"Young Master!" Uncle Fu cried out, but realizing that Ao Yang Ming was only unconscious, he calmed down a little. Looking back at Ling Han, he said, "Let go of young master, this old one will let you leave safely."

"Old dog, you think everyone else an idiot?" Ling Han sneered. "Once I free him, I'll immediately suffer from your treacherous assault!"

"This old one honors with my reputation..."

"Shoo, shoo, shoo, what sort of crappy reputation would an old flunkie like you have, stop embarrassing yourself!" Ling Han said in disdain.

Uncle Fu shivered with anger; while he was considered an old servant ordered to protect Ao Yang Ming, he was still a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator—even at Winter Moon Sect, Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators were a force not to be neglected.

"Get out, I want some sleep. When I sleep enough and regain some spirit, I'll discuss with you, old dog, how to redeem your young master." Ling Han flicked his fingers, and said, "You can say goodbye on your knees."

Uncle Fu naturally wouldn't kneel down, but seeing Ling Han's sword swaying near Ao Yang Ming's neck, he could only sigh and close the tent, sitting cross-legged on the ground.

He was waiting for a chance. If Ling Han wanted to run and stuck out his head out of the tent, then he would smash Ling Han's head with thunderous force, not giving Ling Han any chance to use Ao Yang Ming as a hostage.

Inside the tent, Ling Han smiled at Liu Yu Tong and said close up to her ear, "I'll bring you somewhere, don't resist."

Feeling Ling Han's warm breath on her neck, Liu Yu Tong

blushed and couldn't even hear what Ling Han said, nodding her head thoughtlessly.

Ling Han grabbed onto Liu Yu Tong's delicate hand. With a thought, xiù, he already brought Liu Yu Tong and Ao Yang Ming into The Black Tower.

Liu Yu Tong was taken aback, then cried out. They were just in a small narrow tent, how could they instantly come into such a large space?

"Where's this?" she muttered.

"A safe place." Ling Han didn't explain in detail, because it was hard to explain and involved his past life. Moreover, the Black Tower's existence was too big of a deal. It wasn't that he didn't trust Liu Yu Tong, but the secret itself was a heavy burden that he didn't want Liu Yu Tong to carry.

Liu Yu Tong nodded, naturally believing fully in Ling Han.

"Wow!" Hu Niu soared over. Just as Liu Yu Tong thought this little girl had been missing her and thus spread her arms to hug her, Hu Niu brilliantly wound around her and dove into Ling Han's embrace. Hu Niu nudged Ling Han with her small head, and then turned around to make a funny face at Yu Tong, expressing her dominance.

...Ling Han belonged to Niu!

That was her implicit assertion.

Li Yu Tong's face twitched, she'd never thought that the little girl would be so jealous.

Ling Han patted Hu Niu on the head and said to Liu Yu Tong, "I found you so quickly because of Niu Niu's help, you need to thank her properly."

Hu Niu was even more pleased with herself, cracking a grin at Liu Yu Tong.

Liu Yu Tong was speechless, feeling that she'd encountered a strong rival—Ling Han would guard against everyone but this little girl.

The little girl could flirt all she wanted and stick onto Ling Han, an advantage that neither she nor Li Si Chan had.

Besides, the little girl obviously treated Ling Han like her private property. Her actions just now obviously represented "guarding her food," displaying her excessive jealousy.

"Go rest for a bit. I need to question this guy." Ling Han picked up Ao Yang Ming who'd been thrown aside. This ingrate had to die, but he still wanted to learn a few things about Winter Moon Sect.

Outside, Uncle Fu suddenly frowned—it had been a long while since he heard any movements inside the tent. He couldn't help but listen closely, and his expression soon changed drastically, for he couldn't even hear the sounds breathing or anyone's heartbeat.

He jumped up hurriedly and dove into the tent, but the tent was empty, with no other human figure inside.

How was that possible?

Uncle Fu's expression was ashen. Could this brat have some sort of teleportation ability and thus already took Ao Yang Ming far away?

Chapter 233: Feng Yan's Backer

Pa pa pa , a flurry of slaps instantly woke Ao Yang Ming up.

"Where am I? Where's Uncle Fu?" he asked with a shiver in his voice.

Ling Han kicked him and said, "Am I asking you, or are you asking me?"

Ao Yang Ming clenched his teeth, but upon seeing an unfamiliar environment, his expression paled; this obviously was somewhere far from the forest they were just at, or they wouldn't appear in a plain.

Just how long was he unconscious that he was brought to a place so far away? Was Uncle Fu such a good-for-nothing that he let Ling Han run away with him?!

"You really want to go against Winter Moon Sect?" he said coldly. Since he'd already flaunted his status as Winter Moon Sect's direct disciple, he naturally wouldn't back down again, diminishing Winter Moon Sect's prestige.

Pa , Ling Han threw another kick, kicking off several of Ao Yang Ming's teeth. Ao Yang Ming's face was full of fresh blood and he looked extremely dreadful, but there was no need to pity an ingrate. Ling Han said indifferently, "Why did you come here?"

Devil Sky Mystery Realm's appearance was an accident that no one could foresee, so Ling Han would definitely not believe Ao Yang Ming came for the mystery realm.

Ao Yang Ming wiped the blood on the corner of his lips, revealing a hint of fear in his eyes. Uncle Fu was not beside him now and Winter Moon Sect's reputation couldn't scare this extremely daring guy before him, so he took the wise path and said, "I came to find someone."

Pa , he took another kick. He was so angry that he wanted to

climb up from the ground and put up a desperate fight against Ling Han, but as he saw Ling Han's cold eyes, he felt a chill within, losing all courage instantly.

"Don't leave things half said. If you continue to speak and break off, I'll break all your limbs, leaving only your mouth to talk," Ling Han said coldly.

Ao Yang Ming felt a chill brewing from the bottom of his heart, instantly enveloping him as if his entire body froze over. If it were someone else who said such ruthless words, he would definitely snort in disdain—who dared treat him so as a Winter Moon Sect's disciple?

However, Ling Han... this guy was truly ruthless, making him feel endless chills.

"The person I was looking for is called Feng Yan..." he said honestly.

"Feng Yan!" After hearing this name, Ling Han instantly came to a sudden realization, finally knowing where Feng Yan's confidence came from.

Winter Moon Sect!

"Why are you looking for him? What's the relationship between Feng Yan and Winter Moon Sect?" Ling Han asked.

"A few months ago, when Feng Yan was traveling, he met one of the sect's elders, who intended to recruit him as a disciple. However, he was given a trial—he must break through to Spiritual Ocean Tier in three months," Ao Yang Ming confessed.

"I wanted to get acquainted with Feng Yan, so I came to Rain Country to become Feng Yan's friend before his reputation became prominent.

In the end, Devil Sky Mystery Realm opened while I was on the way, so I entered the mystery realm first."

Ao Yang Ming was very miserable. He came to find Feng Yang in order to increase his status within Winter Moon Sect, but never did he think that he would bump into Ling Han—a malignant star—before he met Feng Yan.

Ling Han felt it odd, and said, "Although Feng Yang has a special constitution, he only has a Silver Mirror Body... what tier is that elder? Flower Blossom, or Spiritual Infant?"

Hearing him speak of Flower Blossom and Spiritual Infant Tiers indifferently, Ao Yang Ming felt a wave of fright, because Ling Han's tone had absolutely no shred of respect and fear for them, as if Spiritual Infant Tier was not even worthy of his attention.

The reality was certainly so.

"Spiritual Infant Tier!" he said with a quiver in his voice.

"Strange!" Ling Han shook his head. He now knew where Feng Yan's confidence came from. Becoming a Spiritual Infant Tier's direct disciple naturally meant he could do anything he wanted in Rain Country; even Rain Emperor wouldn't dare touch him... otherwise, if an old monster in Spiritual Infant Tier was drawn out, then even Rain Country's recluse Flower Blossom Tier would be unable to fend him off.

The question was, was one with Silver Mirror Body really good enough to be a Spiritual Infant Tier martial artist's disciple? Let alone Silver Mirror Body, even Gold Mirror Body was barely worthy of such an honor as Spiritual Infant Tier already stood at the seventh stage of cultivation—what was left above was Deity Transformation and Heaven Tier.

Even further up? Further up was Shattering Void, which could break open the skies and enter the divine plane, attaining godhood.

Feng Yan should have another secret that made a Spiritual Infant Tier cultivator recruit him as a disciple. This point Ling Han had

already sensed; for example, he could fight against the Eldest Prince despite his cultivation being two layers lower, a domineering art like Son of Heaven Fist Technique that could borrow from the power of the nation in the latter's hands notwithstanding.

"Sooner or later we'll fight, and when the time comes, I'll dig out all your secrets!" Ling Han murmured.

"Ling Han, if you let me go, I can pretend nothing ever happened!" Ao Yang Ming tested his luck.

"You need a beating again?" Ling Han leisurely asked.

Ao Yang Ming instantly covered his mouth out of fright. He really had not many teeth left for Ling Han to trample on.

"Who is Ao Feng to you?" Ling Han finally asked his main concern.

Ao Yang Ming revealed a startled expression; how could a mere small martial artist from Rain Country know his father's name? Could it be that he too was... impossible, his father had many illegitimate children, up to the hundreds, but every one of them was surnamed Ao.

"So?" Ling Han's expression turned cold.

"That's my father!" Ao Yang Ming hurriedly said.

"What tier is Ao Yang Ming currently?"

"I'm not sure..." Ao Yang Ming said, and explained hurriedly after seeing Ling Han's sharp gaze, "I normally don't have many chances to see father, and I'm not his favorite child, so I'm not particularly sure. However, according to the people within the sect, father had already reached the peak stage of Spiritual Pedestal Tier five years ago!"

He involuntarily straightened his back. Although Ao Feng was rather loose, his martial arts talent was exceptional, with the

possibility of crossing into Flower Blossom Tier and becoming Winter Moon Sect's true core personnel.

Ling Han acknowledged it tacitly. After ten years, Ao Feng's cultivation progress made quite a leap, which was normal—the thought of letting Ling Dong Xing take revenge... that was a bit difficult.

He had to increase his cultivation as fast as possible so that he would be able to restore Ling Dong Xing's Spirit Base and use large amounts of medicinal pills to slam Ling Dong Xing to Flower Blossom Tier.

Flower Blossom Tier was the largest dividing line in martial arts. It could practically be said that Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators were the strongest mortals, and Flower Blossom Tier was a stage that surpassed mortals, an indescribable difference.

If Ling Han reached the peak of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, it would be impossible to beat someone in the first layer of the Flower Blossom Tier even with his freakish abilities... staying alive would already be something to be proud of.

If Ling Dong Xing was the first to cross into Flower Blossom Tier, crushing Ao Feng would be as easy as the turn of a palm—he could ignore arts and skills, and the difference in experience.

"How many sons and daughters does your old man have?" Ling Han was suddenly a bit curious.

Ao Yang Ming just wanted to shake his head to say he didn't know, but then he thought of how ruthless Ling Han was, so he hurriedly replied, "I'm not too clear. Father never brought us together, but at least two, three hundred."

"What a stud pig," Ling Han sneered, and changed his expression into a serious one before he asked, "Do you know of someone called Yue Hong Chang?"

Chapter 234: Interrogation

"Yue Hong Chang?" Ao Yang Ming revealed a blank expression, shook his head, and said, "No." Seeing Ling Han's unfriendly expression, he immediately waved his hands and said, "I really haven't heard."

"Then don't you have no use to me anymore?" Ling Han's vicious aura spread.

Ao Yang Ming couldn't help but feel gloomy. There were several tens of thousands of people from top to bottom in Winter Moon Sect, how could he possibly know every single person's name? However, faced with Ling Han, a malignant god, he didn't even dare to fart as he inwardly ridiculed.

Ling Han changed his mind and said, "What about Yue Zhen Shan?"

"Chief Yue?" Ao Yang Ming was stunned again. Yue Zhen Shan's status in Winter Moon Sect could be considered second only to that of Ao Feng, because the Yue Family also had a reigning elder at the Spiritual Infant Tier whose strength was not below that of the Ao Family's elder.

Ling Han was an unimportant person from Rain Country, so how was it possible that he knew about the Yue Family and knew that he was Ao Feng's son? He seemed to understand the Winter Moon Sect thoroughly.

Seeing Ling Han glare at him, Ao Yang Ming hurriedly said, "Chief Yue is the same as father, at the peak stage of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. However, Chief Yue cannot be compared to father, because he only reached it two years ago."

This guy seemed to be a little complacent.

Ling Han sneered, and said, "Are you really Ao Feng's son? How come you're such a trash?"

Ao Yang Ming was embarrassed and angry, but he had no strength to refute.

The Ao Family certainly had great authority within the Winter Moon Sect, controlling a surprising amount of resources, but the issue was that Ao Family was not just Ao Feng—there were many other clansmen and strong cultivators that depended on the Ao Family.

Besides, Ao Feng had too many illegitimate children. How could it be possible for every single one of them to receive enough cultivation resources? Some of his illegitimate children even ran to other sects, as they could receive more cultivation resources based on their identity there.

...An example would be if Ao Yang Ming came to Hu Yang Academy and showed clearly that he was a Winter Moon Sect disciple. Now, he wanted to enter your Hu Yang Academy, were you willing to accept or not? You definitely had to take him in, and you wouldn't be able to ignore and throw him aside; you'd treat him like a baller.

However, the majority of Ao Feng's illegitimate children still wanted their face, and wouldn't seek such gratuitous help, feeling it would diminish their status—Ao Yang Ming was a good example.

Therefore, he relied on his identity as the Winter Moon Sect's direct disciple, but his cultivation was only at the fifth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, which was even lower than Qi Yong Ye and the others.

"Ling Han, I've already told you what you wanted to know, can you let me go now?" he said.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "I saved your life, and you exchanged for it with the ancient record, which made us even. But, you shouldn't have had evil ideas about me. The moment you took that step, you've pushed yourself into the abyss of death!"

"What, you're going to kill me?!" Ao Yang Ming asked in disbelief. "You can't conceal this! When the time comes, the Winter Moon Sect will crush you to pieces!"

Ling Han laughed aloud, and said, "Wrong, even if the Winter Moon Sect doesn't come to find me, I'll kill my way to their doorstep and settle something with them—especially your old man! Do you have any last words?"

Ao Yang Ming stared agape. Was this guy was crazy... he was only a mere small martial artist from Rain Country, but he said he was going to kill his way to the Winter Moon Sect to settle something. Did he not know that the Winter Moon Sect had many strong martial artists, including several hundred in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, dozens in the Flower Blossom Tier, and nearly ten in the Spiritual Infant Tier?

Such a force in the North Region would be in the top ranks, and a mere martial artist in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier like you didn't even care about them... what exactly was going on?

'No, wait... This guy's presence...!?'

Ao Yang Ming opened his eyes suddenly and said, "How's it possible, you're already in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?" At the Winter Moon Sect, he had contacted too many martial artists with their cultivation in the Gushing Spring Tier, so while he couldn't sense the aura belonging to higher cultivation Tiers, it was still no problem for him if it was merely Gushing Spring Tier.

Several days ago, this guy was only at the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier, but he was now in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier... what was going on?

Other people's cultivation progress was from one to nine, then a large tier breakthrough. Could it be this guy only needed to take one step?

Ling Han sighed, and said, "Your last words are truly strange. Whatever, I don't care. You can die now!"

"No, don't kill me! Don't kill me!" Ao Yang Ming waved his hands hurriedly. "I can be of use to you!"

"So useless, what would I want you for?" Ling Han offhandedly sent out a palm. Hong , a flame swept by, instantly burning Ao Yang Ming to ashes.

Inside the Black Tower, he was a tyrant with abilities beyond that of Heaven Tier.

He looked outside through the Black Tower. Uncle Fu and the others already left, probably thinking that they escaped in some way, and were now searching for them like a headless fly. He called Liu Yu Tong and Hu Niu, and said, "Let's go out."

With a thought, he already brought the two girls outside.

Hu Niu already played like this a few times, so with her young age, she only thought it was fun; however, Liu Yu Tong turned pale from shock—this scene completely surpassed her understanding.

They appeared at the location where the tent used to be, but the tent was already gone. There was a hole in the ground—probably because uncle Fu thought they dug an underground tunnel to escape.

Could they dig an underground tunnel in such a short amount of time? It was obviously impossible.

As a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator, Uncle Fu did such a thing. He was obviously so panicked that he tried everything in this desperate situation.

"Ling Han, how come we're here? And where were we just now?" Liu Yu Tong said, still somewhat shocked.

Ling Han laughed and said, "I obtained a treasure and we were

inside it just now."

Liu Yu Tong was even more shocked. The place they had been in was ridiculously large, so how could it be carried by him? Moreover, they clearly appeared at the same location, which meant that they were always here. It was such a large space, so how could Uncle Fu and the others miss it?

Ling Han didn't explain further, because the Black Tower's existence was a big secret. Those who did not gain his complete trust would never be able to enter the Black Tower—unless never to come out.

"Let's go into the depths of the mystery realm," he said in high spirits.

The Black Tower was equivalent to a complete safety guarantee, and Ling Han had great assurance in delving into the depths of the mystery realm to discover its secrets.

Liu Yu Tong and Hu Niu naturally didn't oppose, so the three shuttled through the dense forest, venturing deeper.

One day later, they walked out of the dense forest, and saw in front of them a small mountain full of ups and downs.

"From here onwards, we're entering the Devil Sky Mystery Realm's danger zone. The beasts here are extremely terrifying, but spirit grasses here are more abundant," Liu Yu Tong said. "Someone once ate a mysterious fruit here, and instantly rose from the Element Gathering Tier to the Spiritual Ocean Tier."

This was certainly shocking, but mystery realms were associated with Shattering Void Tier, so it wasn't strange that a spirit fruit like that actually existed.

"However, further down lies a large river that my family has strictly forbid everyone from crossing." Liu Yu Tong paused, and then explained, "No one has ever returned alive from the other side of the river."

Chapter 235: A Small Profit

Ling Han nodded. From the logbook, it could be understood that behind the large river, formations were set up, and if one wanted to cross, one either needed a profound understanding of formations, or a high tier's strength that could crush them.

If he wanted to understand this mystery realm, he had to venture into its deepest parts.

If he were in the Element Gathering Tier, Ling Han definitely would not overestimate his abilities and act accordingly; there was no need to throw away his life because of curiosity. However, he had complete confidence now. Even if he couldn't find out the mystery realm's secret, at least he would be able to retreat safely.

"Let's see if I can find some spirit grass," he said.

The Black Tower's first layer had the ability to cultivate spirit grasses. He was the alchemy emperor—if he didn't make use of this, then he would be truly foolish.

The three circled round the mountain. This area was very dangerous, and large enough that people were rarely seen; all that could be seen were the mottled forests. The trees, grasses, and flowers differed greatly in color, resulting in a complex visual effect.

Unexpectedly, Hu Niu once more showed off her capability.

The little girl began to sniff, and she surprisingly brought Ling Han to a 'Blue Star Grass'. This was a fourth level spirit grass which could be refined into a fourth level Anger Qi Pill. After Spiritual Ocean Tier experts took it, their power could increase by twenty percent or so, a very practical pill.

"Eh, Hu Niu, how did you find it?" Ling Han asked out of curiosity.

"Niu is a foodie!" Hu Niu said, very pleased with herself.

Ling Han couldn't help but burst into laughter. He wasn't too surprised by this either, because Hu Niu's Spirit Base was too surprising—she naturally couldn't be normal; having a few abilities different from normal people was rather expectedly normal.

Liu Yu Tong was very gloomy. In 'rivaling for affection', her performance was actually completely dominated by a five or six year old little girl; she somewhat blushed with shame.

Ling Han carefully dug out the Blue Star Grass. The more mature the Blue Star Grass was, the better the effects of the refined Anger Qi Pill would be. At most, it could even raise one's power tenfold, though the medicinal effect definitely wasn't something just anyone could endure—it wasn't impossible that one's body would burst open from the violent medicinal effect.

He planted the Blue Star Grass inside the Black Tower; one year could equal a thousand!

Normally speaking, the Blue Star Grass aged fifty years was already good enough. Now, the Blue Star Grass was about thirty years, so it only needed one day to reach fifty years in maturity inside the tower.

Hu Niu swiftly made a further contribution, very quickly finding a Seven String Wood.

Seven String Tree, also known as Cloudy Tree, was a great support item for those who cultivated ice arts. It didn't need to be made into a pill, but simply refined like a Strange Fire. Seven String Tree's price differed with maturity, the more mature the better. But normally, it was hard to find one older than one thousand years.

This Seven String Tree was only a little over a hundred years, but it didn't matter; 'living' within the Black Tower for a few months would make it reach a thousand years of age.

However, luck wasn't always with them. In the following two days, they had no gains, though Hu Niu found another spirit tree; unfortunately, the fruits on it had already been plucked. But Ling Han didn't care about it, simply transplanting it into the Black Tower.

"There's someone nearby!" Ling Han suddenly halted.

"Yes! Yes!" Hu Niu, too, nodded in a serious manner.

Ten or so young people came down from the mountain ahead. The oldest was not older than thirty years old, and there were both males and females among them.

"Huh?" Ling Han's glance swept by, revealing a hint of surprise.

"Ling Han!" a girl within the group called out first and waved at him, walking over quickly.

It was Li Si Chan.

Before, she didn't make it to the center hall, but they unexpectedly met here.

Seeing Li Si Chan walk over, those youngsters followed. Each and every one had their nostrils pointed to the sky, appearing very haughty.

"Oh, you're that Ling Han?" a young man in embroidered clothing said indifferently. His tone was calm, but it carried a sense of superiority, as if of someone of high status looking down on someone normal.

"Are there many Ling Hans?" Ling Han said casually.

Shua , a youngster butted in and said, "I heard you can fend against Feng Yan, but I don't believe it anyways!"

"What kind of thing are you, and what does it have to do with me whether you believe it or not?" Ling Han said indifferently.

The youngster was enraged, and yelled out, "I am Huang family's Huang Wei Ze. You dare insult me by calling me a thing!?"

"Oh, then I misspoke. So you're not a thing." Ling Han nodded, readily changing his words.

"You..." Huang Wei Ze's eyes opened wide with anger, revealing a murderous aura.

Hu Niu immediately bared her teeth, and her small hands already involuntarily danced around while she revealed her sharp fangs.

"Wei Ze!" The young man in embroidered clothing stopped him, then said with a laugh, "How can you forget your manners in front of two flowers?"

"Brother Cheng Hu is right!" Huang Wei Ze hurriedly retracted his angry expression. He couldn't lose his manners in front of these two stunning beauties.

"Sister Yu Tong!" The young man in embroidered clothing greeted Liu Yu Tong; the two obviously knew each other.

This guy didn't give face to Ling Han, so Liu Yu Tong naturally wouldn't give him face, either. She just turned her delicate face away slightly, pretending not to hear.

Seeing this, these youngsters were in an extremely bad mood. What sort of status and ability did Ling Han have that could make a talented beauty so unswerving! Moreover, if it was only Liu Yu Tong then it wouldn't matter, but now even Li Si Chan seemed to have already became his. How could the youngsters in the Imperial City accept this?

"I am Li Cheng Hu!" The young man embroidered clothing tried to maintain his bearings and said to Ling Han, "Brother Ling Han's name has been known to me for a long time. Could we spar for a bit?"

"Li Cheng Hu? Why aren't you called Li Cheng Long¹, aren't your aspirations too low?" Ling Han laughed.

Li Cheng Hu couldn't help but reveal an indignant expression. The dragon was the Imperial Family's totem, and if he were called

"Cheng Long," then that would offend the Imperial Family. Several thousand years ago, when Rain Country was first established, it wouldn't matter much. That was when the nine large families' forces were about the same, but now, the Qi family had an old monster in the Flower Blossom Tier behind them. With the power of one family, they could firmly suppress the eight large noble families; the latter had to reluctantly take a step back.

"Such a sharp tongue, but what of your ability?" he said coldly.

"Li Cheng Hu, you're too shameless. Ling Han is only in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier, and you're already in the third layer of the Gushing Spring Tier! You have the nerve to ask for a spar?" Li Si Chan immediately yelled out.

"First layer of the Element Gathering Tier?" Li Hu Cheng and the others had a strange expression, because the presence Ling Han gave off was that of someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring.

The third layer against the first layer was certainly a bit unfair, but both were early stage Gushing Spring Tier, which was in an acceptable range.

Ling Han sighed; why did there always have to be someone who wanted to be owned? He flicked his finger, and said, "I don't have time to waste on you dregs. Come at me together, otherwise someone might come out unconvinced after I beat one of you. If you lose, then get lost!"

"Impudence!" These youngsters were getting riled up—to think he dared to look down on them like that!

Chapter 236: Thunder River

"Ling Han, you're too arrogant!" Li Cheng Hu and the others scolded him one after another.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Not that I'm looking down on you guys, I'm just telling the truth. Each of you certainly is trash!"

"Bullsh*t!" Li Cheng Hu and Huang Wei Ze couldn't endure it and attacked him simultaneously.

In actuality, they were certainly the only ones who were qualified, because the rest were just in the Element Gathering Tier. Faced with someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, they could only watch. However, Li and Huang were both members of noble families whom their families were focusing on, so the two of them certainly were stronger than average.

They both used swords and unleashed arts and skills right away, each out of the ordinary.

Li Cheng Hu struck with his sword, and ten spirals of flame appeared out of thin air, condensing into flaming flowers and floating rapidly towards Ling Han. Meanwhile, when Huang Wei Ze brandished his sword, the ground trembled lightly as if it were dancing.

Steady like a mountain, Ling Han didn't move, and his expression was relaxed.

"Arrogant!" Li and Huang both snorted. They already unleashed their ultimate moves, but Ling Han was still so haughty. 'He's really asking for trouble! Let's injure him heavily, and make him remember this lesson.'

They heard vaguely about Ling Han from their elders, and were warned strictly not to provoke him. However, they were both in the prime of youth, and it concerned Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan, the two unrivalled beauties—how could they hold it in?

Thus, they definitely didn't dare to kill, but still wanted to teach Ling Han a lesson, and let this brat know that the two beauties of the Imperial City were known as such because they belonged to the Imperial City, and definitely weren't someone a countryside toad could covet.

Shua , both attacks came hurling toward Ling Han.

Ling Han finally moved, very offhandedly striking out two palms.

These two palms were extremely casual, and everyone could clearly see that there was nothing special about them at all. Yet, they easily broke through Li and Huang's attacks, striking them both on their chests.

Peng, peng , with two smothered sounds, Li and Huang were both sent flying; they spat out blood in midair and made a parabolic arc through the air, landing on the ground at about the same time.

Hiss!

Everyone was shocked. Li Cheng Hu was a martial artist in the third layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, while Huang Wei Ze was a layer weaker; yet, the two together were unexpectedly defeated by Ling Han in one move.

The key was that Ling Han was only in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier! And he did so effortlessly, as if even should these two be ten times stronger, they would still easily defeated by him.

As they understood that, Li and Huang found themselves completely at a loss, their confidence lost. In that moment, they completely abandoned the idea of teaching him a lesson.

For Ling Han, as long he didn't face someone with a higher tier, then based on his experience as someone who used to be in the Heaven Tier, wasn't taking care of a few small Gushing Spring Tier opponents an easy and relaxing thing?

"Get lost!" he shouted lightly, giving no quarters.

If these people stayed polite, then he would also be polite when he asked them to leave, but they wanted to embarrass him, so why would he give them face?

He would never let outsiders find out about the Black Tower, so he naturally wouldn't wish others to tag along.

Li and Huang weren't heavily injured and soon got up, giving Ling Han a fierce look and turning to leave. As they left, the others naturally followed in hurry.

"Li Si Chan, why don't you go with them?" Liu Yu Tong asked sourly.

"I met them on the way, so we formed a party. Besides, I'm only a small alchemist, and not a member of the eight noble families. Speaking of which, you're the one who should join them!" Li Si Chan returned a tit-for-tat reply.

"Hmph!" The two of them glared at each other, neither giving in to the other.

"Snicker!" Hu Niu dove into Ling Han's embrace, her small face full of smiles—the two ugly people were foolishly arguing, but Ling Han belonged to Niu!

The two girls quickly ended their confrontation, and said worriedly, "But, Ling Han, now you've offended almost the entire younger generation of the eight noble families. When you return to the Imperial City, you might be in a seriously difficult situation!"

Ling Han smiled confidently. He now crossed into the Gushing Spring Tier, finally catching up in tier with the mainstream younger generation. As long as figures from the older generation didn't come out, whom did he need to fear?

"Counter pawns with the king, and water with an earth weir," he said.

Both girls thought so as well—worrying now was useless. Moreover, if Heaven's Medicine Pavilion sent Ling Han a high level Black Grade badge, then even the heads of the eight noble families would have to be polite and call him Young Master Ling when they saw Ling Han. No matter how many juniors united, what use would it be?

Half a day later, they arrived in front of a large river.

Further ahead was the vast unknown region of the mystery realm, but this river... wasn't easy to cross!

Ling Han looked closely—as the river surged, there were actually flashes of lightning; looking just twice was enough to make his soul begin to throb.

This was a thunder river. If one crossed the river hastily, then one definitely would be torn into pieces by the power of thunder. Let alone Gushing Spring Tier—or Spiritual Ocean Tier—even a Heaven Tier cultivator would frown upon seeing it.

Ling Han felt strange, and said, "Has anyone crossed the river before?"

"Yes, according to ancestors' written accounts, there certainly have been such people, but as to how they did it... no one ever returned, so there is no way to know," Liu Yu Tong said.

Ling Han nodded. According to the logbook Xiao Ding left, somewhere in this thunder river were hidden stumps that would appear each day at a certain time, allowing people to cross; however, each time interval when they appeared would be very short.

But many people came in every time, so there were always some who encountered it by chance, and there definitely were courageous people who wanted to go to the other side of the river to find opportunities who never returned.

Ling Han was now searching for the place where the hidden

stump appeared.

They walked along the river and looked for spirit grasses and spirit trees in passing, reaping a decent profit. Although they were all low level, a mosquito's leg was still meat; besides, the Black Tower's space was almost infinitely large, so why waste it?

Seeing Ling Han make grass and trees disappear as he walked, Li Si Chan naturally looked like she saw a ghost, whereas Liu Yu Tong showed a smug satisfaction. Though a few days ago, her expression wasn't much better, she could now laugh at Li Si Chan who was like a country bumpkin making a fuss over nothing.

Ling Han revealed the spatial ring's secret to the two girls, and simply said that he had an even better spatial vessel, so naturally there was no need to explain the Black Tower's secret. And now, he no longer had any use for this spatial ring since the Black Tower replaced it with infinitely larger space and functions.

The two girls were curious of the novel stuff, looking at the spatial ring with a blazing gaze.

On one hand, the spatial ring certainly was a good thing, but besides that, rings represented another sort of meaning.

"It's Niu's!" The two girls were still waiting for Ling Han to choose whom to give it to, but someone who didn't play by the rules caught them off guard, snatching it and putting it on her finger while laughing.

Hu Niu was only so mature, and when she put the ring on her finger, she found it was empty, making her bawl out in anger.

Ling Han laughed aloud, and took out a red rope to string it, turning it into a pendant and hanging it on Hu Niu's neck. This instantly made the little girl turn from angry to happy, kissing Ling Han on the cheek as a reward.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chang looked at each other as a strange sense of crisis arose within them.

Chapter 237: Chi Hua Lan

Ling Han gave the spatial ring to Hu Niu with something in mind—Hu Niu had too big an appetite, so even if she got lost by accident, she wouldn't have to worry about hunger when having a spatial ring filled with food.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan could only accept it and nod, but at the same time, they sighed in relief; there was only one ring, so if it were gifted to either one, the other would be inevitably dejected.

...Could they not contend against even a little girl?

The next few days, Ling Han always felt the atmosphere was a bit strange. The times Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan argued were less and less, making him feel as if the sun rose from the west—it was simply unbelievable.

After yet another day, Ling Han finally found the place as told in the logbook. On the riverside were two stone columns that unexpectedly reached 330 meters tall, their features very distinct—here was where the hidden stump was.

They waited—after five hours, black poles suddenly surfaced continuously. They definitely didn't come from the bottom of the river—it was like at the central hall, they were appearing out of thin air.

Ling Han was not hesitant, and said, "You guys go in first!" His large hand curled, bringing the three girls into the Black Tower while he leapt out. Shua, shua, shua, he was like a dragonfly dotting on water as the tips of his toes tapped on each stump, swiftly sweeping over and towards the other side of the river.

Shua , at this moment, a graceful figure flew out, following tightly behind Ling Han.

Ling Han took a sudden stride forward, and arrived at the opposite bank. Taking a look back, he saw a lady was also crossing

the river. After a glance, he involuntarily glanced at the girl who was surprisingly at Spiritual Ocean Tier!

Another close look, and Ling Han couldn't help being stunned.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both counted as exceptionally beautiful, and their reputation was far-reaching in the Imperial City, where they were called Twin Pearls; however, they obviously paled in comparison to this lady. This girl was definitely a beauty that could be ranked among the top ten Ling Han had seen in his entire life, even breaking into top three.

...With the fact that he was a Heaven Tier in his previous life, how many beauties had he seen? Countless! This girl could rank top ten, that meant she certainly was exceptionally beautiful, simply beyond the mortal sense.

The key was that she was young, at most twenty years old.

A twenty year old cultivator in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, even Ling Han nodded in acknowledgement. Placed amongst the geniuses he encountered in his prior life, she would make the grade.

How could such a genius come out from a place as small as the Nine Nations of the Desolate North?

"Fairy Chi! Fairy Chi!" A holler came from the opposite riverbank. Gu Feng Hua's figure appeared, he obviously came here chasing the girl.

Ling Han suddenly recalled that this guy said he'd encountered an exceptional fairy, and followed that fairy into the mystery realm; it seemed like this was that girl.

She certainly was stunningly beautiful.

However, at this moment, a change suddenly occurred.

The stumps disappeared.

Not one after another, but all of them disappeared in an instant,

as if they never existed before.

Gu Feng Hua suddenly halted. He was a pervert for sure, but he wasn't an idiot; he wouldn't dare cross the thunder river.

The girl was also shocked, but not at all panicked. As she shouted lightly, flames gushed out of her body and formed a propulsive force that made her rapidly falling figure halt suddenly, gliding towards the opposite riverbank.

Her white clothes fluttered, and the flames danced; she was like a flying fairy.

Gu Feng Hua was suddenly lost in relaxation and carefreeness as he stared, but then he immediately gave himself a slap and said, "Now's not the time to admire! Beauty Chi, go for it! You can do it!"

This guy was truly a buffoon!

Ling Han shook his head, and as his gaze swept pass the girl, he knew that the girl had no chance to reach the opposite bank.

The girl obviously knew this too, and her delicate face showed an unreconciled expression—was she going to die here out of carelessness?

Shua , at this moment, a metal silk like that of a silkworm shot out and wrapped around her thin waist. A massive force surged, pulling her rapidly towards the opposite riverbank.

She wouldn't miss such a chance—she borrowed this force to straighten her back, instantly unleashing a surprising elasticity as she pulled her body upwards in an unimaginable manner.

Ling Han retracted his hand, and xiu , the Origin Gold turned back into a bracelet.

With this external force's support, the girl lightly fell to the ground. Her body trembled fiercely and she spat out some blood.

...When she'd burst with flames, it cost her a lot.

"Good!" Seeing the girl land firmly onto the ground, Gu Feng Hua

instantly jumped in joy. He waved at Ling Han and said, "As expected of the man I think highly of, good job!"

Those words sounded so uncomfortable that Ling Han instantly shivered—as expected of a pervert.

The girl took out a medicinal pill to swallow, and then nodded at Ling Han. "Thank you."

Ling Han nodded, and said, "It's nothing, no need for formalities."

"Having her life saved, Chi Hua Lan must repay it," the girl said again with a prudent expression.

Since she was so insistent, Ling Han nodded and said, "Ok, but no need to repay it with your body."

Pah!

Chi Hua Lan instantly spat in her thoughts—even if you wanted to, there was no way. She would never marry an average man. However, with this joke, her tone was colder. "You don't have to worry about that!"

"Ling Han, take care of Fairy Chi!" Gu Feng Hua yelled out from the opposite riverbank, obviously not willing to be a lightbulb.

"You know that man?" Chi Hua Lan asked Ling Han with a hint of disdain in her eyes.

Ling Han was speechless, he and this pervert crossed paths twice and they already became friends? He nodded and said, "He is my friend."

The disdain in Chi Hua Lan's eyes worsened; one who made friends with a pervert could not be any more normal oneself. She spoke no more. She would repay him for saving her life, but she definitely didn't want to associate herself with Ling Han in any other way; even exchanging another word felt disgusting.

Ling Han took notice of her expression and inwardly sneered. He

saved her on a whim. Every moment, a talented cultivator would lose their life accidentally somewhere in the wide world, so her death wouldn't make much difference.

He paid no more attention to her and looked ahead.

From here on was the true mystery realm that only few have set foot on in several thousand years.

However... nothing could be seen clearly!

It was very strange. Separated by the thunder river, it could be clearly seen that mountains and forests were here, and the land could be clearly seen five thousand meters away. However, at this side of the river, there was fog everywhere—things couldn't even be clearly seen three meters away, let alone five thousand meters.

'Strange!' Ling Han and Chi Hua Lan both thought.

This was the effect of a formation.

"It's extremely dangerous here, so I advise you to stay here. Wait for the floating bridge to appear again and head to the opposite shore. Don't lose your life in vain," Chi Hua Lan said.

This girl was unexpectedly cold on the outside, but warm on the inside.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "Thanks for your concern."

"Only ghosts would be concerned about you!" Chi Hua Lan snorted. "I just don't want you to die before I repay you for saving my life."

Chapter 238: Evil Demon Tree

This girl truly knew not how to talk, using such harsh speech.

Ling Han smiled lightly, and said, "Don't worry, I'll definitely live to be a hundred."

"I worry!" Chi Hua Lan snorted again.

Ling Han couldn't help but think about Liu Ru Er who also liked to snort.

Caring yet proud!

After he labeled Chi Hua Lan in his mind as such, he took out the logbook, peering into it again.

Chi Hua Lang naturally didn't know how precious a thing Ling Han held in hand—it even allowed one to pass through the formation! She sat down cross-legged; even though she ate a medicinal pill, she still needed to coordinate it with the circulation of Origin Power to recover her injuries.

Ling Han very quickly closed the logbook and began walking ahead.

Although Chi Hua Lan was recovering her injuries, she didn't dare to be careless. Naturally, she paid some attention to Ling Han in case he suddenly attacked and tried to subdue her... she knew just how crazy her looks made men.

However, Ling Han just walked away!

He walked away just like that?

This guy was her savior after all; even if he shamelessly stuck by her side, she wouldn't use her sword to chase him off, right? However, Ling Han let such a great chance go, making her appear as if she saw a ghost.

To loosen the reins only to capture one better?

Chi Hua Lang thought so at the start, but soon, she could no longer hear Ling Han's footsteps, as if she was the only one left in this world.

He really left!

Chi Hua Lan's face twitched; although she never thought she'd charm all the men in the world, she'd seen plenty of the expressions of men who couldn't move their eyes off her, and now a freak who didn't care about her suddenly appeared, almost making her snap.

This guy said he didn't need her to use her body to repay him... he wasn't joking, but he truly thought so?

Chi Hua Lan thought back, and she was practically going berserk that someone gave her the cold shoulder!

On the other side, Gu Feng Hua called out, "Fairy Chi, come back..."

"Get lost!" Chi Hua Lan was still fuming, so she naturally gave Gu Feng Hua a murderous look, which destroyed her fairy-like aura entirely. She took a deep breath and sat on the ground again.

That was just a fool she didn't need to care about... didn't need to care about...

She told herself that, but involuntarily clenched her fists; if Ling Han appeared before her now, she definitely would give him a beating.

Ling Han took large strides forward. In this life, his attention was put on the path of martial arts. It didn't matter how beautiful Chi Hua Lan was, admiring her for a bit was enough.

He followed the logbook's records and paid attention not to make a wrong step—otherwise, he could be forever trapped inside this mist, unable to ever leave... he could only hope that Chi Hua Lan wouldn't lose her calm and rush in.

But, he was not a reckless person; it wasn't certain if the logbook was valid, not to mention possible changes to the formation after all those years that passed.

Maybe this was a trap to lure people to enter?

Ling Han turned Blood Sucking Origin Gold into a line of silk, and fastened it to the riverside. While he advanced, he laid out the line in case he lost his direction—he would still be able to return following the line.

...Wandering numerous times in ancient sites, his experience was naturally rich.

The logbook apparently didn't have any problems. After ten minutes, the mist dispersed; though it still remained, its density wasn't comparable to the one before.

It was gloomy here, as if it was midnight but with a dim moonlight; it was dusky, but not to the point of being unable to see one's own fingers, forming an extremely constrained and inhibited environment.

Ling Han jerked his finger and retrieved the Blood Sucking Origin Gold. He now had complete confidence in being able to return.

According to reason, when the mystery realm's door closed, it would expel all outsiders inside, but it was rumored that those who crossed the river disappeared henceforth; none ever appeared again and that meant two possibilities.

First, once people reached this point, they would no longer be expelled, and second, the people who came here all died, so they naturally would not be able to go out.

Since he didn't know the dangers hidden here, Ling Han didn't let the three girls out. On the contrary, his mind was highly tense, ready to enter the Black Tower any time.

Pa , a shadow suddenly attacked like a sharp arrow, thrusting at

Ling Han.

Ling Han instantly made a decision, and a black sword immediately surfaced from the Black Tower. He reached and grabbed it, slicing towards the shadow.

The cold sword struck and ignited a blinding brilliance, making the black figure show its true appearance.

It was actually a rattan!

Ling Han's sword struck out, unleashing six flashes of sword qi.

With a muffled sound, the rattan was struck and immediately began fluttering everywhere with black-colored liquids pouring out. It was as if a man's arm had been cut by a sword.

Shua, shua, shua, at this moment, several hundred rattans came thrusting.

Ling Han concentrated his gaze, opening up his left hand and turning Blood Sucking Origin Gold instantly into a screen blocking the attacks in front. Pu, pu, pu, pu, muffled sounds reverberated, and the strength behind the attacks pushed Ling Han back continuously.

He aggressively retracted the Blood Sucking Origin Gold—with this time buffer, he already prepared Mysterious Three Thousand, fiercely unleashing his sword. Shua, shua, shua, dozens of sword shadows surfaced at once, and the spiritual qi converged, quickly turning into a physical body.

"Go!" Ling Han shouted loudly, controlling dozens of sword lights to counterattack against the rattans.

This attack was too strong, the severed rattans fluttered and black-colored liquids poured like rain.

Hong , with a trembling sound, a massive black figure surfaced. It was a massive tree, but this guy pulled itself out from the ground as countless roots intertwined below it, turning into four legs and

enabling it to walk on the ground.

"Evil Demon Tree!" Ling Han said with a slight change in his expression. "Evil Demon Tree is a third stage monster spirit that isn't worrying on its own, but always comes in groups..."

As those words were said, another large tree appeared, then three more, a fourth one, and... the amount kept increasing, forming a whole crowd of them.

"Evil Demon Tree's tree heart is an extremely good tonic food. It's just that when so many appear, it's hard to fight against them!" Ling Han muttered.

Hong , innumerable rattans were launched as at least a dozen Evil Demon Trees attacked him at once.

Ling Han hurriedly dodged while waving his sword to counterattack from time to time. It was just that these Evil Demon Trees were simply too large, and just like his Dead Tree Body, their trunks were tough and durable, so when the Sword Qi hit, it only scraped the tree bark.

He was about to hide in the Black Tower to temporarily avoid them, but the Strange Fire sent him a thought, wanting to come out to fight those Evil Demon Trees.

'Fire conquers wood, it's worth a try.' With Ling Han's thought, hong , the Strange Fire immediately rose up, emitting a strong presence.

This Strange Fire was fostered from a Shattering Void Tier cultivator's ossified remains; its intrinsic qualities were surprisingly high.

Once the Strange Fire came out, the Evil Demon Trees instantly backed away one after another, revealing an intense fear.

"Haha, never thought that my chance would come so quickly! Don't run, leave your tree hearts!" Ling Han initiated an attack.

Chapter 239: Battling Rong Huan Xuan

Evil Demon Trees were special creatures, something between a plant and a beast. They could form an inner core like beasts that was similar to a martial artist's Dantian; this was their source of power, known as tree heart.

Since they counted as half-plants, Evil Demon Tree's tree heart was like spirit grasses, very easy to refine and thus even more precious.

Ling Han pursued them relentlessly, beating the Evil Demon Tree army into disarray. At last, seven Evil Demon Trees had their tree hearts dug out while the rest took the chance and escaped, disappearing without a trace. However, due to their quality of being half-plant, even if their tree hearts were gone, they wouldn't die. The tree heart would still slowly grow back after a thousand years.

Seven tree hearts should help him break through to the second layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, right?

Ling Han was very curious—when he reached the peak of the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, would he form a second spring eye, or continue to expand the first spring eye?

He wasn't in a rush to refine these tree hearts; he continued to march on. Every time the mystery realm opened, it could only remain open for about two months' time—he'd already used up about half that time, so he had to speed up his pace.

Fortunately, he had a predecessor's logbook, so he avoided several dangerous restrictions on the way, faced with threats but no real danger.

The deeper it was, the flatter the landform was. Before, there were undulating mountains, but here there was only a spread of flatland seemingly without end.

In the distance, a black light shot directly into the sky, connecting to the firmament like a heaven-reaching pillar. At the top, a pitch-black layer of clouds circled around it. A small dot could be seen faintly there, though what it was exactly was a mystery because it was simply too far to recognize.

The location of the black light should be the mystery realm's core; what secrets exactly were hidden there?

Zi!

Ling Han hadn't set out yet, but already heard a strange sound and saw three bronze caskets slide from afar. That strange sound was issued by the caskets grating against the ground. The caskets stopped ten meters in front of Ling Han.

Peng , the casket's cover flew open, and out jumped a youngster; it was Rong Huan Xuan.

"You're quite strange, kid, I'm surprised you were able to come here!" Rong Huan Xuan said with a puzzled yet impressed expression.

"You too! You too!" Ling Han smiled as he said. If Rong Huan Xuan didn't use the Silver-Armored Corpse, then he would be able put up a fight.

"You had a breakthrough?" Rong Huan Xuan's gaze inadvertently swept by Ling Han's body, instantly causing him to open up his mouth wide enough to fit a chicken egg inside. "You were only in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier earlier, how did you suddenly become someone at first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?"

This was truly inconceivable; whose cultivation could jump like that?

"Right, you should've eaten some spirit fruit, that's why your cultivation made a leap." He immediately nodded, answering his own question. It was the only reasonable explanation.

Ling Han naturally wouldn't explain. He said, "You can come here because of the three caskets, right?" Rong Huan Xuan rode the casket over earlier; this was the Thousand Corpse Sect's most precious treasure, perhaps even a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool since it was able to fend against the restriction.

Rong Huan Xuan smiled proudly and said, "Correct!" Then, he asked, "So, how did you come over?"

"Luck." Ling Han smiled.

"Then your luck is truly bad!" Rong Huan Xuan revealed a sliver of killing intent.

"Why?"

"Because you're going to die by my hands now!" Rong Huan Xuan attacked, forming a fist with his right hand. A spread of filthy air was discharged from his body, turning the ground thirty meters around him into dead land. Corpse Qi kept rising and turning into skulls, charging towards Ling Han.

"Hmph, evil triumphs not over the virtuous!" Ling Han snorted, and with a thought, flames emerged from his body, fending against the corpse land.

His spirit base was complete with five elements. Origin Power could transform into any element, and releasing flames was naturally a mere trifle—flames had a strong restraining power against evil Qi.

This confrontation was a direct contest between Origin Power.

Rong Huan Xuan was in the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but his power surprisingly surpassed Ling Han's!

The fifth layer's power was stronger than the first layer's, so it should be a very normal thing. However, Ling Han's spirit base was complete with the five elements, and on top of the process of nine nuclei fusing into one, his power actually surpassed that of a normal fifth layer.

This showed that Rong Huan Xuan wasn't an average Joe, boasting power surpassing his cultivation.

Ling Han couldn't help but shake his head. He was surely a genius, but were other geniuses not allowed to exist? Despite Thousand Corpse Sect being chased like rats, it couldn't be denied that it once had its years of glory. Its roots were naturally extremely deep, so would they not have been able to produce one or two exceptional geniuses?

He was a bit surprised, but Rong Huan Xuan was even more shocked. Rong Huan Xuan knew clearly that although he was at the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, his true power was on par with the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and his battle prowess rocketed to nine stars.

Yet, in a pure Origin Power stand off, he actually barely surpassed Ling Han?

Truly inconceivable!

"You're very strange. You may become a great rival in the future, so you must die!" Rong Huan Xuan said in a justified manner.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "Hearing this, should I feel honored or scared?"

"Honored and scared!" Rong Huan Xuan said threateningly. "You seem to understand quite a bit about the Thousand Corpse Sect. You were probably thinking that I could run wild only by relying on these Corpse Soldiers, but you didn't know that my actual strength is also extremely strong!"

"Then I shall experience it," Ling Han said indifferently.

"You will regret it!" Rong Huan Xuan attacked; his fist turned into a large skull, smashing towards Ling Han whilst he chanted, "Corpse Qi opens the skies, my lord is heaven and earth!"

"This chant is quite conceited, but this strength, well..." Ling Han shook his head, and his eyes turned cold. With his right hand

already striking out with his sword, he said, "On a clear bright day, demons and devils scatter at once!"

Sword light dispersed like the sun in midday.

"Not bad, you have some strength." Rong Huan Xuan sneered, still throwing punch after punch enveloped in Corpse Qi, unafraid of clashing head-on with a sharp sword.

The main reason for that was that this sword was still a normal tool. If it were a Third Tier Spirit Tool, then it'd guarantee that Rong Huan Xuan wouldn't be so arrogant.

He had the power advantage after all, and it was an absolute advantage at that. Additionally, his skills were also out of the ordinary, very quickly letting him take the initiative, becoming more overbearing with each punch.

"I knew I didn't misjudge it. Your battle power is extremely strong, at least equivalent to eight stars. Unfortunately, you met me!" He laughed boisterously with a arrogant and domineering spirit.

This guy was certainly a genius, and he received the Thousand Corpse Sect's inheritance; it was impossible for him not to be strong.

Ling Han let out a loud cry and took out the Fire Eyed Bull's horns, holding one in each hand. With the surge of Origin Power, the patterns on the horns immediately lit up one after another, each bursting with flames.

"Watch how I'm going to slice you!" Ling Han used the horns as a handle and flames as a blade, attacking at Rong Huan Xuan as though with a sword.

This effect was unusually good.

Rong Huan Xuan cultivated a most yin and evil art, and what he feared and hated the most were fire-type arts which naturally dominated over his. When flames swirled, they instantly

diminished his force greatly, and the two became equally matched.

"You shall not live!" Rong Huan Xuan's killing intent was blazing now.

Chapter 240: Corpse Rain

Rong Huan Xuan was definitely a conceited person.

He was a genius of martial arts; there was no doubt about that. Additionally, he had also managed to obtain the core inheritance of the Thousand Corpse Sect, so he should have been invincible against any opponent in the same age range as he. But Ling Han was even younger than him, yet was powerful enough to oppose him. This caused killing intent to boil within him.

"Die!" He used a secret technique and punched out, actually producing a light shadow of a black skull that was draping over a similarly black-colored battle armor. A gigantic black blade rose and shot towards Ling Han in a slash.

Ling Han's expression was a bit cautious. He took a deep breath, raised the bull's horns and launched his own slash.

Mysterious Three Thousand!

Shua, shua, shua . It was in a single instant when the skull warrior produced by the technique suffered multiple slashes, and was immediately shattered into pieces by the barrage.

Ling Han was a bit out of breath. If it was not for the fact that the space within his Dantian had been expanded a hundredfold, he would have been completely exhausted after managing to launch ten-plus attacks of Mysterious Three Thousand at most. This Sword Style was indeed very powerful, but it also expended an unusual colossal amount of energy.

Moreover, the bull's horns were still not a sword at the end of the day, so there was a great loss of destructive power. But it was also because the bull's horns could produce a Level Three flame, which was very effective in dispersing the Corpse Qi, that he could achieve his goal with this one attack.

Rong Huan Xuan was in utter disbelief. That move just now had

been a secret technique of the Thousand Corpse Sect, and was at the level of a Black Grade high level technique. It was also something that could only be used by a disciple of the Thousand Corpse Sect, because it required the user to possess Corpse Qi.

This move was a combination of Origin Power and Corpse Qi, and had a terrifying corrosive ability. A martial artist needed only touch a little bit of it, and he would definitely melt completely. But Ling Han unexpectedly managed to unravel this attack in a single slash.

If he knew that this was the invincible sword technique that allowed the Sword Emperor to move unhindered in the world, he might feel a bit honored. That was because the Sword Emperor was too powerful a person—he had started to become known from when he was merely in the Gushing Spring Tier, until he finally reached the Heaven Tier. He had defeated all opponents who were in the same cultivation level as he, and stood invincible at the top of the field of the martial arts.

Facing such a slash, he managed to avoid either death or defeat. This was already very much a miracle!

However, Rong Huan Xuan did not know. Thus, he felt very displeased, and his killing intent became even stronger. "You are indeed a strong foe. I have no choice but to eliminate you!"

Ling Han sighed, and smiled as he said, "We have no enmity between us, so why don't we simply drink some wine or have some tea?"

"It would be better for you to go to hell and have your drink there!" Rong Huan Xuan released a loud yell, and a black-colored Qi appeared all over his body. A weird scene appeared—the black-colored Qi actually solidified and formed sharp blades all over his body.

At the first glance, it seemed as if he had become some kind of monster.

Ling Han's expression became even more cautious, and said, "You made Corpse Qi cover your body and forcibly increased your own power?"

"You indeed have a very deep understanding of the Thousand Corpse Sect!" Rong Huan Xuan smirked, and said, "Since that is the case, do you still intend to resist?"

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "You have your trump card, but so do I. Firstly, I had not wanted to reveal it, and secondly, I did not want to waste it on you."

"Oh, then I would really like to get a look at it." Rong Huan Xuan moved. With the Corpse Qi enveloping him, his battle prowess had indeed increased drastically, and he was once again able to get the upper hand.

Ling Han humped and put on the Purple Star Handguard. He had already grasped fully the way to use this Spirit Tool. With instilling his Origin Power into it, the designs on it immediately shone and provided him with a continuous supply of energy.

"Yi?" Rong Huan Xuan exclaimed in surprise. His battle prowess had increased slightly, and Ling Han was also able to similarly increase his own battle prowess, so both sides were back to the same starting line.

It looked like this brat had also encountered a colossal fated opportunity of his own.

However, Rong Huan Xuan had no fear. His greatest trump card were the three copper coffins. This was a secret treasure of the Thousand Corpse Sect. Though he was still unable to fully activate them, as long as he took shelter within them, it might not be possible for even a powerful elite of the Flower Blossoming Tier to lift the lid of the coffin and drag him out. Thus, he was filled with confidence.

"Heng, Ah Da, come out!" he mumbled under his breath, and

peng , yet another coffin opened and a Silver-Armored Corpse leaped out.

"Hey, hey, hey. Didn't we agree on a one-on-one battle? How can you bring out a helper?" Ling Han said with a smile.

"Since you know so many secrets of the Thousand Corpse Sect, then you should also definitely know that the greatest technique of my sect is to control corpses. Corpse Soldiers can be considered my sword or saber, so how could it be considered as taking the advantage of numbers to bully the few?" Rong Huan Xuan smiled as well, but did not hesitate at all in issuing his order for the Silver-Armored Corpse to launch its attack at Ling Han.

Spiritual Ocean Tier, what more when it was the peak of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, was not a league that Ling Han was capable of opposing at this moment. Even if he had the Black Tower to transmit power to him and forcibly raised his cultivation to the next tier, it was still not a definite thing that he would be able to resist such a terrifying guy.

After all, the gap between the first and the ninth layer was a bit too big. Moreover, the body of the Silver-Armored Corpse was comparable to the ingredients used to forge a Tier Four weapon. Even it stood there unmoving, it would still require a bit of effort from him to break through its defenses.

Peng!

Right about when Ling Han was thinking of fleeing, a black shadow suddenly dropped down from above and crashed heavily near them, producing a gigantic depression in the ground, causing the latter to shake with a powerful tremor.

Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan immediately ceased their battle. They indeed wanted very much to kill each other, but would definitely not give up their own life to achieve this purpose.

Peng! Peng! Peng!

More and more black shadows dropped down from above, and like rain, they fell around Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan.

Ling Han grew cautious and alert. If he was forced into desperate enough straits, then he could only enter the Black Tower right in front of everyone. If worse came to worst, he could use the chance when the Black Tower would transmit power into him and kill them to prevent them from revealing his secret.

His gaze swept over the surroundings and he could not help but look shocked.

A hand actually stretched out of the large depression created in the ground, and a person came crawling out of it.

This was an old man who was dressed in embroidered robes. He looked like a wealthy man, but there was no sign of life circulating in any part of his body at all.

There was no heartbeat, and no breath. Ling Han was absolutely sure that the blood in this man's veins was definitely not flowing.

This should be a completely dead man.

But he actually climbed out of the deep pit, and his face was vivid and lively. No matter how one looked at it, he looked like he had just fallen asleep. This was instead even more terrifying.

Not just him. From each and every hole, a corpse came crawling out. It was obvious that there was no sign of life from them at all, yet they were still able to move. They looked a bit like Corpse Soldiers, but they had obviously not been refined at all.

What was even more inconceivable was the fact that these corpses had dropped down from the sky!

Yet Rong Huan Xuan's eyes immediately lit up and he looked practically like he was about to break out into a dance. "There are actually so many good quality corpses! No wonder the Three Live Corpse Coffins insisted on bringing me here. So it seems that there is a great fated opportunity for me here!"

This person had been in Spiritual Pedestal Tier when he was alive! This one was in Flower Blossoming Tier! And here's another in Spiritual Pedestal Tier!

Hahahaha, I need only refine a few corpses, and it would be enough to do as I like in the North!"

Rong Huan Xuan looked incomparably delighted. He pointed at one of the corpses with his right hand, and said, "When I refine you, you must obey my commands!" He began muttering under his breath, and a black-colored Qi actually spread out from his right hand, wafting towards that corpse.

The corpse seemed like it had not felt anything at all, and merely continued to stare at the sky blankly.

Ling Han too looked at the sky, and could not help but come up with a daring idea: could it be that these corpses were that little black dot in the sky, and it was previously impossible to tell there was more than one because of the distance?

The black light surrounded the corpse's body, and as if it was alive, it entered into the corpse through its nostrils, ears, and eyes.

Rong Huan Xuan smiled. This was the Source Corpse Qi he had cultivated. As long as a corpse was invaded by this Qi, then the corpse would fall under his control. "Come here!" he commanded.

The corpse seemed to have felt something was off, and suddenly turned to look at Rong Huan Xuan, its body slightly trembling.

Pu , a black-colored Qi shot out from within its body and instantly turned into ash.

Rong Huan Xuan's previously pale face suddenly reddened, and he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood. His Source Corpse Qi had been destroyed, which caused him to experience a powerful backlash.

Chapter 241: Demonic Qi

Finally, no more corpses continued to drop down from the skies. However, these corpses all stood up and began to surround Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan.

They did not make any move, and seemed to be waiting for a command from someone.

However, though Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan were heavily surrounded, neither looked the slightest bit afraid. That was because they both had a powerful life-saving trump card—Ling Han had the Black Tower, while Rong Huan Xuan had his Three Live Corpse Caskets.

All of a sudden, these corpses all turned to look at Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan. There appeared a network of black-colored veins on their skin, which caused them to look strange in an instant, but at the same time, it also gave them a bit of life, as if they had really been revived.

They began to walk and made their way towards Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan. They didn't move very quickly, but each and every one of them was exuding a powerful aura.

These people were indeed dead, and because they had not been refined, could not possibly have the powerful battle prowess that Corpse Soldiers had. However, those patterns on their skin had completely changed everything, and allowed them to possess a terrifying battle prowess.

It was as if... they had been transformed into human-shaped Spirit Tools!

"Rong Huan Xuan, we shall continue our battle next time!" Ling Han laughed, drew out a Swift Cloud Talisman and slapped it onto his body. Then, he broke into a run.

There was no advantage at all in fighting with these human-

shaped Spirit Tools. Moreover, both he and Rong Huan Xuan had a means which could absolutely guarantee their safety and so were unable to kill the other off, so what was the point of continuing to fight? To continue wasting time here? Moreover, those corpses must have appeared to block their advance, and anyone who would choose to continue to stay here and fight a tough battle would be an idiot.

Hong , a female corpse raised her hand and delivered a palm strike. A light shadow was launched, and formed into a network of patterns, shooting towards Ling Han.

A Spiritual Pedestal Tier level attack!

It was not possible for Ling Han to dodge an attack of this level even if he had increased his speed tenfold. But just as this light shadow was about to make contact with him, he entered into the Black Tower in a flash, but in the next instant, once again reappeared from within the Black Tower.

As his speed was too fast, it was as if he had never disappeared at all, but that attack had indeed missed its target.

"Yi!" Rong Huan Xuan was extremely shocked, because he was quite sure that he himself would never have been able to dodge that attack. It was after all an attack from someone in Spiritual Pedestal Tier! If his eyes had been sharper, he may have discovered the fact that Ling Han had vanished and once again reappeared, but for someone in the Gushing Spring Tier, that was impossible!

Ling Han's calculations were too accurate. Entering and subsequently exiting the Black Tower was just enough to make that attack fall short of its target. If he had reappeared a bit sooner, he would definitely have suffered the attack, and if he had appeared a bit later, then it would have exposed him.

...How could the eyes and judgement for someone who used to be in Heaven Tier be hollow?

However, he did not have the time to continue pondering, as there were already many corpses that had launched their own attacks at him. The Silver-Armored Corpse had just rushed forwards, and with a *pa*, smacked an old corpse into pieces.

An existence of Flower Blossoming Tier!

Rong Huan Xuan did not have the slightest feeling of having vented his anger as he hurriedly hid himself in one of the caskets.

Peng, peng, peng, peng . An innumerable number of attacks shot forwards, activating the Three Live Corpse Coffins. The patterns on the coffins immediately lit up, launching rays of black light. Even if these corpses had the battle prowess of Spiritual Pedestal Tier, at the very least, they did not have the slightest bit of resistance against these rays of black light. In an instant, they collapsed and transformed into a black-colored liquid.

In this way, the attention of practically all the corpses was attracted. With a long hiss, Ling Han's speed increased, and he had instantly disappeared into the distance. Meanwhile, Rong Huan Xuan could only curse from within the copper coffin. The best case scenario was that Ling Han would be killed off by one of the corpses.

Those corpses were very powerful, but speed was not their forte. After Ling Han had forced his way out of the encirclement, he very quickly managed to throw off his pursuers, and continued to make his way to that black-colored pillar of light ahead of him.

He had the logbook left behind by Xiao Ding, and managed to continuously avoid all the dangerous zones. But after advancing a bit further, he had reached the zone that had been Xiao Ding's limit. In other words, he would be able to come into contact with that source of misfortune here.

Ling Han used his divine sense to continuously sweep over himself, taking note of any slightest bit of change. However, his bloodstream, his heartbeat, and everything else was completely

normal.

He was approaching closer and closer to that black-colored light pillar, and sensed that he would be soon unravelling an ancient mystery, so could not help becoming a little bit excited.

After proceeding for some more distance, he coincidentally raised his hand, but realized, much to his shock, that there had actually appeared a black-colored pattern on his palm and arm, which was exactly the same as those corpses that had dropped down from the sky.

How could this be!?

He had obviously not felt any change, but without his knowledge, something had happened to his body, making him feel very astonished and wary.

One had to understand, he was someone who had the senses of a martial artist in Heaven Tier. Yet still, he had fallen victim without realizing it.

Xiao Ding had said in his logbook that there was a mysterious energy in this place, which had infected him, causing him to feel unlike himself. Then, if he had been like those corpses that had fallen down from the sky, then began to move under the control of this mysterious pattern, he would have been moving like a zombie, and indeed, that was no longer himself.

With a thought, Ling Han had entered into the Black Tower.

In the Black Tower, he was the ultimate ruler. He left Liu Yu Tong and the other girls far behind, and did not allow them to find out that he had arrived.

"Get out!" Ling Han humped. A mighty force exploded from his body, and it was as if he had transformed into a brilliantly shining sun. Those patterns on his skin were instantly shattered, and transformed into black-colored threads. After they merged together, they only had the breadth of a single strand of hair.

It was as if this black thread had a life of its own as it continued to twist around, and even released shrill hisses.

It was the level of divine sense, and directly penetrated into one's mind.

"I am in charge in my territory. Whatever you are, you had better behave in front of me!" Ling Han's right hand pressed down on empty air, and this black thread could only obediently hang in midair.

Xiu , Small Tower appeared, slightly trembling.

"Do you know what this thing is?" Ling Han asked.

"Demonic Qi. There is a consciousness in it, which allows it to control living beings and transform them into puppets," Small Tower answered.

Ling Han nodded. He had seen with his own eyes that there were similar patterns flashing on the bodies of those corpses, and they were moving around like zombies. Ultimately, it was this black thread that was the key of the matter.

"However, pure Demonic Qi is also not a bad energy, which can be used to remold yourself thoroughly. I can erase the consciousness from within it, and make it so that you can use it. However, there is not much here, so the effects would be limited." Small Tower continued.

"Really?"

Small Tower shook lightly. "It's done."

It was done just like that? No matter how it was, shouldn't there have been some explosion of light, or a bit of time to wait?

Ling Han was shocked. From this, he could also tell how high the level of the Black Tower was.

Well, that was true. With merely a slight tremor from it in his last life, his mortal body was dead.

He held up that black thread. Now, this thing was obediently not making any further resistance. He could also sense the power held within it. It was different from Spiritual Qi, but seemed more majestic.

With a thought, he had once again appeared in the outside world.

"Yi?" A consciousness was suddenly moving in his mind.

"Who!?" Ling Han immediately shouted.

"What an intriguing brat!" That consciousness once again resounded. "I discovered a sliver of consciousness had lost contact with me, and it so happened that it is that sliver that is attached to you!"

Chapter 242: Asura Demon Emperor

Ling Han smiled condescendingly, and said, "A grown man still speaking half-truths, don't you fear being laughed at?

"Hehe, youngster, when this lord had overrun the world, your ancestors weren't even born!" That voice laughed, its owner appearing to think otherwise. "No matter, this lord's name is... Asura Demon Emperor!"

Demon Emperor?

Ling Han was stunned. Based on Xiao Ding's account, Devil Sky Mystery Realm's master was called "Demon Master," could it be this person? He said dully, "This nickname is certainly awe-inspiring and domineering, but don't you have a name?"

"Hahahaha, youngster, are you trying to fish out information from this lord?" The voice that called itself Asura Demon Emperor burst into laughter. "Ai, this lord hasn't seen people for too too long, so I'll chat with you for a bit!"

Ling Han didn't appreciate the offer, and said coldly, "Lord Demon Emperor is in such a good mood, using mystical arts to control people right away. I wouldn't dare to chat with Lord Demon Emperor, maybe I'll fall into a trap at anytime."

Asura Demon Emperor laughed mischievously without a shred of anger and embarrassment from having just had his evil deed revealed. "This is a mystery realm locked by infinite restrictions in order to stop people from entering. This lord is responsible for suppressing this land, and won't allow anyone to pass. It is you who bumped into the speartip¹."

Those words seemed to have some reason.

Ling Han was already well-acquainted with such ways, so he naturally wouldn't be embarrassed by this rebuttal. He laughed and said, "Old Senior, this place has been desolate for countless

years, already becoming a thing with no owner! Us martial artists explore all sorts of ancient ruins, it is a very normal thing, isn't it? Would Senior send out an application asking for permission to enter before entering some ancient ruins?"

Asura Demon Emperor instantly cracked up. "Youngster, you sure can argue! Well, this lord won't get entangled in the right or wrong of entering this place, but since you've entered, and have the ability, you can complete a wish of this lord."

Ling Han inwardly sneered. Speaking of arguing, Asura Demon Emperor was better, quietly covering up the fact that he tried to control him earlier. However, if he wanted to fish information from the other party, he naturally wouldn't keep arguing about that, or else they would only fall out.

"What wish does Senior have?" he asked.

"Wait for this lord to tell you why Devil Sky Mystery Realm exists." Asura Demon Emperor sighed, and began to tell Ling Han what he wanted to know. "A very long time ago, at least several ten thousand years, an incomparably strong being appeared in this world: it was called Chaos Origin God..."

God?

Ling Han was a little shocked inside. Those who reached Shattering Void Tier's extreme could shatter the sky and enter the legendary divine plane. Could this Chaos Origin God have come from the divine plane? If a being like that truly existed, then wouldn't it be invincible here?

"Chaos Origin God was strong, but it committed the most heinous crimes and caused countless formidable cultivators to set out against it together. After paying a steep price, they defeated Chaos Origin God. His body was divided into nine parts, each part suppressed in nine different mystery realms," Asura Demon Emperor added.

Ling Han was seriously shocked, and said with a frown, "This place suppresses one ninth of Chaos Origin God's body?"

"Correct."

Ling Han was astounded, and asked again, "You said body, not corpse?"

"Chaos Origin God was too powerful—even if smashed to pieces, he could immediately recover, being essentially impossible to kill. Thus, the only way was to split his body into nine parts to decrease his power, suppressing each part separately," Asura Demon Emperor explained.

Hiss , as expected of a god, super-kickass.

Ling Han pondered, and asked again, "Why not split him into ten parts, or a hundred parts?"

"Because nine was the extreme. If it surpassed nine, Chaos Origin God could restore himself on any remaining limb, and below nine, his power would only be divided. Therefore, the extreme was nine parts," Asura Demon Emperor said.

Ling Han nodded. This explained one of his doubts, but he immediately asked again, "After so many years, Chaos Origin God hasn't died?"

"A god's life is so long that it surpasses your imagination," Asura Demon Emperor said indifferently.

"Senior's life seems to be quite long as well," Ling Han also said indifferently.

"Hahahaha, this involves another secret, but it's also the wish that I would like you to complete for this lord." Asura Demon Emperor laughed and said, "Suppressing Chaos Origin God under nine mystery realms can only temporarily suppress it. The nine body parts will still instinctively seek to escape and fuse with each other."

He paused a short while, then continued, "Thus, each mystery realm includes strong restrictions to strengthen the lock. However, the restriction's power slowly weakened with time. It should be about twenty thousand years ago when the restriction power weakened to the point that it almost couldn't suppress Chaos Origin God. Consequently, this lord fused his own body with the restriction to reinforce the restriction again."

That was what Xiao Ding had said when they were ordered to leave Devil Sky Mystery Realm?

Ling Han pondered. Asura Demon Emperor's words had no inconsistencies, and if it were as he said, that he sacrificed himself to suppress Chaos Origin God by fusing with the restriction, then his moral character was definitely worthy of respect.

He nodded and said, "Senior's sentiments impress this junior."

Asura Demon Emperor sighed, paused for a short while, then said, "This lord's greatest wish is to annihilate Chaos Origin God forever! This was originally impossible, but this lord fused with the restriction and continued to battle with Chaos Origin God's body for ten thousand years, obtaining a deep understanding of Chaos Origin God. Youngster, this lord has a way to annihilate Chaos Origin God completely, do you wish to help this lord?"

Ling Han smiled—although Asura Demon Emperor spoke vehemently, it was all just him talking. Ling Han's had two lifetimes as a human; he wouldn't believe a one-sided story; he naturally he had his own opinions.

He said, "How do I help?"

"This place suppresses Chaos Origin God's left arm, and this lord can help you refine it! By doing so, Chaos Origin God will completely lose one ninth of his power, and you... will possess one part of a god's body. In days to come, when you break through to the God Tier, your chances of success will be at least 70-80% if not 90%." Asura Demon Emperor suddenly threw out a large pie,

enough to crush any one person.

Shattering the sky and attaining god spirit—this was every martial artist's dream! Didn't Ling Han enter and explore numerous ancient ruins precisely to break through to the Shattering Void Tier?

Now it seemed like a glorious path was set in front of him—one step to the heavens!

Possessing an arm of god, what sort of concept was that?

Even with Ling Han's strong will, his heartbeat became faster by three beats. However, he immediately calmed down and said, "How do I do it?"

"Easy, just pull out a sword, and this lord will be able to allocate all of the restriction's power, and when the time comes, I'll be able to assist you in merging with the arm of god, refining Chaos Origin God's will!" Asura Demon Emperor said somewhat excitedly.

Chapter 243: True or False?

Ling Han was somewhat moved and said, "What sword?"

"Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, Demon Birth Sword!" Asura Demon Emperor said. "This is the first generation Demon Master's sword, fused with the Demon Master's martial intent, used as the formation's eye. To refine the arm of god, the formation must be opened, so the Demon Birth Sword must be pulled out."

Ling Han smiled slightly, and said, "Senior, although you speak with such righteousness and such extravagance that my heart couldn't help but beat wildly, how do I know that you're not a fake created by the Chaos Origin God in a ploy to deceive me and make me open the restriction to let you out?"

"Hahahaha!" Asura Demon Emperor laughed boisterously, then said solemnly, "This lord can vow with my soul that this lord is Asura Demon Emperor and definitely not Chaos Origin God. If there are half-truths, then let my soul fall forever into reincarnation, and not allow to be birthed as man for ten thousand lifetimes."

Vow of the soul!

This was the most serious vow, and the higher the tier of a martial artist, the less likely he would be to dare make such a vow.

Ling Han was a Heaven Tier martial artist in his previous life, so he naturally knew a vow of the soul couldn't be faked.

However, he revealed a smile at the corner of his lips. The vow of the soul couldn't be faked, but Asura Demon Emperor's story could've been faked—then his vow naturally would have no meaning.

Ling Han pondered whether or not he wanted to take this risk.

If he could take in Demon Birth Sword and the arm of god into the Black Tower, then no matter what conspiracies and plots he

had, he'd make him completely submit. The Tenth Tier Spirit Tool was definitely not out of the question, but the arm of god... that was god tier, which was on par with the Black Tower, so could it be refined?

Besides, Demon Birth Sword definitely had a spirit inside, and the arm of god had the remaining will of Chaos Origin God, which needed the other party's agreement to be put into the Black Tower; he had no initiative.

Thus, Ling Han didn't dare to make a decision rashly.

"Youngster, do you not believe this lord?" Asura Demon Emperor snorted and revealed dissatisfaction in his tone. "Whatever, this lord will summon Demon Birth Sword over, so you can ask it yourself."

After a short while, a flash of light came flying rapidly from afar. It truly was a sword. It was covered in several patterns, each forming several characters. A look at it made Ling Han's brain feel as if boiling and churning, it was extremely painful.

It definitely surpassed the Ninth Tier; otherwise, this martial intent wouldn't be intolerable for Ling Han with just a glance.

"It certainly is a Tool Spirit." Small Tower sent out a voice. Its consciousness was connected to Ling Han's, and they could communicate anytime without worrying about anyone else knowing.

"I am Demon Birth Sword!" This sword resonated, sending out its divine sense.

It surely was a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool!

A sense of delight surged involuntarily in Ling Han. He planned to walk down the sword path, so naturally he yearned to possess a high tier Spirit Tool. If he could obtain the Demon Birth Sword, then he wouldn't have to consider the problem of a weapon before breaking through to the God Tier.

"Youngster, do you still have any doubts about this lord?" Asura Demon Emperor's voice sounded once again in Ling Han's consciousness—he could only use divine consciousness to communicate with Ling Han.

Ling Han revealed a smile, and he said to Small Tower, "Can you help me subdue this Tool Spirit's true entity?"

Small Tower was silent for a while, as if thinking, and then said, "If I use all my strength, then I can annihilate all existences in this realm; subduing a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool is naturally a breeze. However, in the depth of my memory, there is an intense voice that tells me definitely not to expose myself. Ten millennia ago, I used up the tiny bit of source power I recovered to fuse with you, and for you to take another person's body, I used up the source power I had just accumulated completely. If I strike now without source power to hide from god's design, then my existence will definitely be discovered by many powerful beings. At that time, you will die, and I'll be striped away."

Ling Han didn't notice the difference between "source power," and "origin power," he sighed and said, "After all that talk, you just definitely can't intervene?"

"With ten millennia for me to recover source power, I can intervene once," Small Tower said.

Ling Han's expression was bizarre. In ten millennia's time, he'd either become a god or turn into a corpse, so he definitely wouldn't be able to wait till Small Tower showed its power.

"However, if you can bring the Tool Spirit into my body, I can intervene without scruples and suppress it!" Small Tower added.

The fact remained that he still needed to bring Demon Birth Sword into the Black Tower.

Ling Han pondered, and said, "How much of Asura Demon Emperor's words are real?"

"I don't understand people's hearts, and can't judge if it's true or false." Small Tower vibrated lightly, as if shaking its head. "But judging by the divine consciousness he left on your body, if he enters the tower, I can easily suppress him."

Again, it had to be within the tower.

Ling Han sighed. This was the hardest, because it was just like having a good hand of cards but no chance to use it; no matter how good that hand was, it could only rot in his hands, making him extremely depressed.

'Hmm?'

Ling Han was startled for a moment and looked behind him, only to hear a rumbling sound. With just a few breaths of time, three caskets were as if they had grown legs, sliding over.

Rong Huan Xuan!

He was truly like a lingering ghost.

Peng , Rong Huan Xuan jumped out of the casket and his gaze swept by Ling Han as he revealed an amazed expression and said, "You actually didn't get infected by the Demonic Qi and turn into the walking dead like those scrubs?"

"You didn't, let alone me?" Ling Han said indifferently.

"You mean, you're stronger than me?" Rong Huan Xuan said with squinted eyes, revealing a dangerous aura.

"Isn't it an obvious fact?" Ling Han laughed. Perhaps for a long time to come, this guy would be his opponent, so he naturally didn't mind taunting him a bit.

Rong Huan Xuan was angered and thought to attack, but he suddenly stared blankly, showing an appearance of listening attentively.

Ling Han immediately guessed that Asura Demon Emperor told Rong Huan Xuan about the arm of god and the Demon Birth

Sword.

"Hahahaha!" Rong Huan Xuan very quickly laughed aloud. "Who would've thought, who would've thought that here hides such a large secret. My Silver-Armored Corpse didn't die in vain!"

Ling Han knew he was already moved, and said, "Rong Huan Xuan, you should think clearly, don't throw yourself into it too."

Rong Huan Xuan laughed loftily. He had Three Lives Corpse Casket, which was a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, so he definitely wasn't afraid of the Demon Birth Sword. Even if Chaos Origin God was once strong without bounds, but now it was severed into nine parts, so just how much power remained?

Besides, he wasn't an idiot. Wouldn't he act only after he saw things clearly?

Xiu , Demon Birth Sword's spirit started to fly.

Rong Huan Xuan immediately jumped into the bronze casket and followed at a lightning speed.

Ling Han shook his head and followed behind.

Although he wasn't a paladin that cherished the entire world, he also wouldn't wish for chaos in the world. He naturally had to prevent Rong Huan Xuan from doing deranged things... Rong Huan Xuan was a Thousand Corpse Sect disciple who couldn't be considered a human anymore.

Chapter 244: Core of the Array

In truth, Ling Han still had many questions that he had yet to ask the Asura Demon Emperor. For example, why were there so many corpses in the sky?

Since the Devil Sky Mystery Realm would open up every once in a while, why had he only just managed to sought out himself and Rong Huan Xuan now? Could it be that in the many years previously, not one single person had managed to make it across the Thunder River?

Ling Han recalled that Demonic Qi. Could it be that anyone who could not resist Demonic Qi would be considered unqualified to be contacted by the Asura Demon Emperor?

He was left far behind by Rong Huan Xuan. It was all right though as long as he did not lose sight of the latter.

After a very long travel, the Demon Birth Sword finally stopped. In front of them, there appeared a gigantic altar. It was circular in shape, and the center stuck out very tall, while the ground around it was completely flat in all directions. They could see that there were many mysterious, unknown characters drawn all over the ground.

In any case, Ling Han was not able to decipher them.

He cast his eyes instead on that central part of the altar that was sticking out. There was a sword laid upon it, which looked completely the same as the spirit that had claimed itself to be the spirit of the Demon Birth Sword.

From the looks of it, it was indeed the spirit of this sword.

There were slivers of black-colored Qi encircling the body of this sword, and it seemed as if they were a demonic dragon that continued to twist proudly around it.

Xiu , from the air, the spirit suddenly entered into the treasured

sword, and did not appear again.

"Young man, there is only one fortunate opportunity. I shall gift this fateful opportunity to whoever manages to get the Demon Birth Sword." The voice of the Asura Demon Emperor was once again heard.

Rong Huan Xuan laughed loudly, leaped out of the copper coffin, and declared, "It naturally belongs to me!" However, it was only a single instant, but all of a sudden, his entire body was covered with the black demonic patterns. He gasped out loudly in fear, and immediately leaped back into the copper coffin.

Ling Han could not help but narrow his eyes. The Demonic Qi in this place was too strong. Rong Huan Xuan had only just appeared, and he was completely encircled by the Demonic Qi. If it was not for the fact that he had the Three Lives Corpse Caskets with him, then it was most likely that that one single instant would be enough time for him to completely lose all independent thought and willpower, and transform completely into a puppet under the control of the Demonic Qi.

Strange. Then why had nothing happened to him at all?

Could it be that because he had refined that sliver of Demonic Qi, and so caused the Demonic Qi in this place to fear him?

Hu!

The Three Lives Corpse Caskets shook lightly. Upon them, a multitude of patterns lit up and transformed into ancient characters. After that, black-colored Qi emerged from within the coffin, and they looked very faint.

Obviously, they were currently helping Rong Huan Xuan to cast off the Demonic Qi. However, it was far beneath the level of the Black Tower. A single thought from Ling Han was enough to chase out the Demonic Qi, and Small Tower easily managed to subdue the Demonic Qi.

After at least an hour, no more black Qi was released from the coffin. Evidently, the Demonic Qi in Rong Huan Xuan's body had been completely cast out.

"Ling Han, why did nothing happen to you?!" Rong Huan Xuan called from within his coffin, obviously not daring to reappear.

Ling Han shrugged, and said, "Why should I tell you?"

"Heng!" Rong Huan Xuan also knew that he had spoken nonsense. But he was really curious. Even he had to depend on the Three Lives Corpse Caskets to avoid being invaded by the Demonic Qi. Then what did Ling Han have to depend on?

Ling Han began to circle around the altar, and said, "Indeed, this is the core of an array, and the Demon Birth Sword is indeed the eye of this array. If one draws out the Demon Birth Sword, then even if this array does not lose all effect, it will at least be rendered only half as effective."

"Young man, I have really underestimated you. You actually have such knowledge!" Asura Demon Emperor's voice was once again heard. "When you draw out this sword, not only will you be able to obtain a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, you will even be able to get the arm of a god!"

Ling Han did not say anything. After a while, he smiled, then said, "No one would be giving away benefits for free in this world. The reason for a lot of misfortune begins from greed. I do not believe you!"

"Why?" Asura Demon Emperor asked in confusion.

"To make a deal with an evil demon who would freely use Demonic Qi to control others, wouldn't that be the case of being deceived and still appreciating and thanking him who had deceived you?" Ling Han said calmly. He repressed his own greed.

"Young man, you have misunderstood. I am cultivating Devil Arts, and after I merged with the array, Demonic Qi has naturally

filled this world. Moreover, I have already lost my body, so it is impossible for me to still possess any control over the Demonic Qi!" the Malevolent Devil Emperor explained.

Ling Han shrugged, and said, "I think this situation is quite fine. Why don't we just let that Chaos Origin God continue to be repressed here, and after a few hundred years, I should have about reached the Shattering Void Tier. Then, I'll just come back and strengthen the array a bit, and ensure that whatever god is eternally unable to make a comeback."

Asura Demon Emperor was instantly lost for words. After quite a while, he asked, "Are you going to simply allow such a great opportunity to pass you by?"

A Tenth Tier Spirit Tool and the arm of a god. Indeed, these were both powerful items, but Ling Han felt that things had proceeded too smoothly—so smoothly that it seemed like a trap, which gave rise to a powerful feeling of vigilance within him.

"No, this opportunity is mine!" Hong , one of the coffins flew up. Rong Huan Xuan's yell was still heard from within. "This is my opportunity, and no one can snatch it away from me!"

It was the fact that he had been forced into desperate straits which had allowed him to obtain the inheritance of the Thousand Corpse Sect, and thus gained the ability to make a comeback and eliminate his enemies. Moreover, he had a bright future ahead of him, and could prospectively become one of the few truly powerful elites of this world.

Thus, he was a great believer in chance, and believed even more in his own luck.

This Tenth Tier Spirit Tool and the arm of a god was a gift the heavens had given to him, so he would never allow them to be snatched away by another!

Hong long long , under his command, the copper coffin slid

directly over to the altar.

Weng, weng, weng . This altar was instantly activated. This was the core of the whole array, and was also the strongest part of it. One after another, the patterns lit up, and it was as if those characters were suddenly brought to life and appeared in close succession with each other.

A shocking scene appeared. These characters actually formed into various white-colored human shapes, but these humans had no noses, no eyes, and no mouths. There were only brightly lit characters all over bodies.

Hong , these character-men all moved, and struck at the copper coffin.

Ling Han instantly looked astonished. He was absolutely sure that the ability of these character-men was at most only in the Heaven Tier!

How could this be possible!

With a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool as the eye of this array, no matter what, the character-men created by this array should at least have the ability of the Shattering Void Tier, right? Otherwise, they might as well have used ten Ninth Tier Spirit Tools as replacement. Could it be that a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool was unable to compare to ten Ninth Tier Spirit Tools?

Peng, peng, peng . These attacks fell upon the copper coffin and incited the patterns on it to light up as well and release black-colored light. Not only were the attacks of these character-men blocked, they were even bounced back at them, displaying the forceful nature of the copper coffin.

This copper casket was definitely a Tenth Tier treasure. With the shining black light, the character-men needed only be exposed for a short while, and that area of characters would instantly dim. However, it was unlike before when the black light would endlessly

spread out and increase the area of damage.

Obviously, against existences of the Ninth Tier, while the copper coffin was still at an advantage, it was not to the level that it was defying all logic.

Though the copper coffin had limited effects, it still continued to advance forwards. However, its speed had slowed down considerably.

Ling Han frowned deeply. If Rong Huan Xuan really drew out the Demon Birth Sword, who knew what might happen? He gave a light hump and his right hand opened, intending to strike out with his Blood Sucking Origin Gold and forcibly pull back the copper coffin.

"Young man, it's fine if you do not want the fateful opportunity, but you have gone too far to try to stop another from obtaining it!" The voice of Asura Demon Emperor was once again heard, and suddenly, a large piece of black-colored demonic patterns appeared on Ling Han's hand, making him have no choice but stop his movement.

Chapter 245: Devil Comes Into Being

Ling Han lost control of his hand—he naturally became unable to use the Blood Sucking Origin Gold.

The demonic patterns were quickly expanding and creeping towards his head. At the same time, an indescribable evil was roiling inside his body, as if trying to swallow him whole.

"Hahahaha, become this lord's servant! Your body seems to be hiding a secret that this lord is very interested in knowing!" Asura Demon Emperor's voice sounded again.

Ling Han snorted, but he was unable to deal with Rong Huan Xuan at the moment. If he really let the demonic patterns creep onto his head, his consciousness would definitely be wiped out by the Demonic Qi, turning him into a walking dead controlled by Asura Demon Emperor.

His figured flashed—he had entered the Black Tower.

"Get the hell out!" he bellowed. A mysterious power surged within his body and whiffs of black Qi were instantly ejected from it, making him feel bright and clear.

"Small Tower!"

The space trembled and Small Tower appeared out of nowhere. It just shook lightly, and all the black Qi immediately condensed into a lump; it instantly wiped out the consciousness within it, turning it into a pure lump of Demonic Qi.

Ling Han's body flashed again, and he had already appeared in the outside world.

"What, you actually expelled the Demonic Qi and refined this lord's consciousness!?" Asura Demon Emperor cried out. "Hmph, several millennia of conspiring won't be spoiled by a child. Today, no matter how large the cost, this lord will reach the objective!"

Hong , black Qi surfaced on Ling Han's body again, each strands like a spirit snake, rushing to be the first to bore into his body.

"Sh!t!" Ling Han cursed and entered the Black Tower right away.

Small Tower intervened and completely wiped out the Demonic Qi in his body, refining it.

Ling Han made a comparison within—the traces of Demonic Qi before and now were somewhat different.

Before, the Demonic Qi carried Asura Demon Emperor's will that wanted to control and manipulate him. However, the latter only confused his mind, and no longer contained Asura Demon Emperor's will within it.

It was very simple—the other party was afraid of his will being erased.

One's soul was limited. Once a part was erased, it'd forever disappear, and it would be impossible to recover it. Thus, Asura Demon Emperor wanted to stop Ling Han from stopping Rong Huan Xuan, but he absolutely wouldn't send large amounts of his will for Ling Han to erase—that would be equivalent to suicide.

Therefore, Asura Demon Emperor gave up the thought of controlling him and only wanted him to lose his mind, turning him into an idiot without consciousness under the Demonic Qi's influence.

Of course, expending Demonic Qi in this way would definitely hurt Asura Demon Emperor's vitality greatly, so that's why he said, "No matter how large the cost, this lord will reach the objective!" However, it could also be inferred how great Asura Demon Emperor's scheme was, making him unhesitantly undertake such means to stop Ling Han.

Ling Han appeared again—this time, entering and exiting only took less than half a breath's time.

He glanced over to see the bronze casket was getting closer and

closer to the Demon Birth Sword, but this Tenth Tier Spirit Tool showed no signs of displaying its power; otherwise, with a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool against a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, the Three Lives Corpse Caskets definitely wouldn't obtain the upper hand.

Thinking back to how Asura Demon Emperor and the Demon Birth Sword echoed one another, obviously the Demon Birth Sword had been subdued by Asura Demon Emperor. Now, Rong Huan Xuan was running an errand for Asura Demon Emperor, so Demon Birth Sword naturally wouldn't butt in.

Contrarily, if he entered the altar now, then he would definitely suffer a hit on the head from Demon Birth Sword, so he had no other means except for hiding in the Black Tower.

Asura Demon Emperor only saw that he refined Demonic Qi quickly, and assumed that he had a treasure that far surpassed the Three Lives Corpse Caskets. In reality, the Black Tower couldn't be taken out, so even if he let Ling Han advance, Ling Han wouldn't be able to stop Rong Huan Xuan...as long as the Demon Birth Sword intervened.

However, how could Asura Demon Emperor possibly know that?

Seeing Ling Han come out, he immediately allocated large amounts of Demonic Qi to corrode him, but to no avail.

Entering and exiting, the two seemed to be playing hide-and-seek, and the amount of Demonic Qi Ling Han obtained was bigger and bigger, making him beam with joy.

After the Demonic Qi was refined and stripped of its evil and chaos properties, it became a high-level energy, which was a great tonic that could increase his physical qualities and cultivation.

A good guy!

Ling Han truly wanted to award Asura Demon Emperor a medal; there truly weren't many good people these years, making him inwardly sigh. However, he entered and exited more often to fish

for more gains.

Asura Demon Emperor was almost driven mad, but he had no way to know that Ling Han couldn't stop Rong Huan Xuan, sparing no effort to use Demonic Qi to corrupt Ling Han—this expenditure was so large that he felt it intolerable.

Fortunately, the bronze casket finally arrived before the Demon Birth Sword.

He instinctively stopped activating Demonic Qi. Although it was only a mere sliver of divine semse, it gave off extreme anticipation. If it could materialize at this moment, then it would inevitably be filled with eager expectation and excitement.

Rong Huan Xuan pushed aside the casket lid, reaching out to grab the Demon Birth Sword.

Ling Han just came out and found it odd that there was suddenly no Demonic Qi assaulting him, making him feel unused to it. He turned his head just in time to see the scene. At this moment, it was already too late for him to intervene, so he sat by and watched to see what would happen next.

Rong Huan Xuan grabbed onto the Demon Birth Sword and an extremely bright flash of brilliance instantly burst forth. The bronze casket also sent out a blinding light, forming dark characters, and closed in on that light.

Ling Han felt as if his eyes were blinded as he became unable to see anything. However, the two lumps of light burst out for a moment, then disappeared one after another. Rong Huan Xuan let out a tragic scream; his left arm was cut off from the shoulder, spilling out fresh blood.

Xiu , his severed arm still held onto the Demon Birth Sword, and it coincidentally flew in Ling Han's direction.

With a rumble, the altar trembled fiercely and cracks appeared on the heaven-reaching pillar of light as infinite black dots came

crashing onto the ground. With a bang, the top of the pillar of light started to crumble and spread downwards. In a breath's time, it completely collapsed.

Pa, pa, pa, pa , corpses fell onto the ground, but this time, they didn't make holes in it, nor did they climb up. Instead, each one was smashed into smithereens, turning into piles of blood.

With another rumble, the altar also cracked from the middle, exposing an unfathomably deep fracture. Soon, black smoke fiercely erupted from the bottom, turning into something resembling a human figure above the altar.

Ling Han was quick to act, already grabbing Rong Huan Xuan's severed arm and naturally picking up the Demon Birth Sword in passing.

Seeing this, Rong Huan Xuan actually stopped crying out in pain, and yelled angrily at Ling Han, "Give me back my hand! And my sword!"

Xiu , the human-like black smoke in the sky rammed fiercely towards Ling Han.

'This was a scheme after all!'

The thought crossed Ling Han's mind. However, why was that idiot Rong Huan Xuan so insistent on pulling that sword out? Now the devil suppressed in the mystery realm was let loose and he was at wits' end; with a flash, he immediately entered the Black Tower

The lump of black smoke missed and immediately turned around, targeting Rong Huan Xuan.

"Fu*k!" Rong Huan Xuan was greatly terrified.

Chapter 246: Rebirth

Rong Huan Xuan cussed out, hurriedly hiding in the bronze casket. He naturally now knew that things weren't right, but the Demon Birth Sword was not fake, and he still wanted it. However, the black smoke's presence and the patterns that appeared on his body were completely the same, so he wouldn't dare to let it come close, naturally hiding in the bronze casket at once.

As for his arm and the Demon Birth Sword, he'd claim it back with time.

His ideas were very optimistic, but reality was too cruel!

The black smoke's speed was far faster than the speed at which he hid.

Ling Han could dodge in time because he only needed to think to enter the Black Tower, but Rong Huan Xuan couldn't; he needed to crawl inside the bronze casket, and the two's speeds could not be compared at all.

Xiu , he still hadn't diven into the bronze casket, but the black smoke had already bore into his body.

He started, but the black smoke didn't seem to be as scary as he'd thought. He still managed to get inside the bronze casket, and with a clang, the casket lid closed; he was going to use the old method to expel the Demonic Qi.

With a thump, the casket continued to jolt and black characters flashed on the casket's body, becoming increasingly fierce as if it was about to explode.

But all of a sudden, the casket settled down, motionless.

Pa , the casket opened, and Rong Huan Xuan appeared again without any change. His severed arm was still bleeding, but his expression was extremely calm. In his eyes was surging black light, and with a close look, it was actually a silhouette of the moon and

stars.

A Gushing Spring Tier martial artist could actually have the reflection of the moon and stars in his eyes—just how incredible was that.

"This body might not be really satisfactory, but it can barely still be used," Rong Huan Xuan muttered and peeked at the severed elbow; black smoke immediately surging from the severed area.

An eerie scene appeared; his right hand grew out at a visible pace!

Ling Han was inside the Black Tower, but he saw and heard what happened outside clearly.

Rong Huan Xuan was no longer the original Rong Huan Xuan, but was possessed by the consciousness within the black smoke.

Such terrifying skill!

At least, to Ling Han's knowledge, not even Heaven Tier or Shattering Void Tier cultivators could possess someone; otherwise, the Shattering Void Tier warriors in this world would breed like flies, becoming more and more with each generation, because they would never die.

A god!

Ling Han thought of what Asura Demon Emperor had said about the god suppressed here. It seemed like it wasn't wrong, but the god wasn't some Chaos Origin God, but Asura Demon Emperor himself!

It was no wonder he urged Ling Han and Rong Huan Xuan to take away the Demon Birth Sword to open the restriction, and in the end, he wasn't even hesitant on expending Demonic Qi to stop Ling Han from stopping Rong Huan Xuan.

"So you're Ling Han!" Rong Huan Xuan muttered—apparently he gained Rong Huan Xuan's memories after possessing his body. He chuckled and said, "Come out, I know you're still here!"

Pausing and seeing that there was no movement in the surroundings, he couldn't help but snort and say, "I know you acquired a God Tool. Only a God Tool can contain living things... hehe, based on your experiences, you couldn't possibly know. Let this lord give you a proper lesson today!"

This lord could run amuck in the divine plane back in those days; my knowledge about God Tools surpasses yours infinitely! As long as this lord finds it, I can refine it, and you can just die inside there!

Before, this lord couldn't deal with you, because this lord was suppressed by the formation. Now, with a physical body, the only path you have is death!

Hmph, since you want to waste time, then this lord will find you!

He shouted lightly, and puffs of Demonic Qi burst out from his body and floated in the surroundings, obviously searching for the whereabouts of the Black Tower.

Ling Han naturally heard everything, and couldn't help but be a bit nervous. Asura Demon Emperor was once a god after all, even though now he was only one ninth of his body... Ling Han was curious about that—didn't he say that this place suppressed one of his arms? How did it just become black smoke? No matter what, an emaciated camel was larger than a horse; he must have had some powerful ability.

For example, Ling Han still had a sliver of the legacy as a former warrior from the Heaven Tier—discernibility and judgment not in the least inferior to those in his previous life.

"Don't worry, this person is just a sheep in wolf's clothing." Small Tower suddenly appeared, and evaluated, "He's been suppressed for too long, and his soul is not complete. If he wants to recover the strength he had, he must recover his soul first; his battle power now is mostly moving the physical body. The Demonic Qi entering the body largely increased his battle power, but it won't reach a ridiculous level."

"What you mean is, I can contend with him?" Ling Han was automatically drawn to battle.

Small Tower looked at him closely, trembled lightly, and said, "Unless you borrow my power, you won't be his rival."

So he would have to use the Black Tower's single-time power-up now?

Ling Han shook his head. This wasn't worth it—use the best steel to make the knife's edge. Since Asura Demon Emperor needed to assemble nine parts of his soul to reemerge as a god, then he couldn't create too much of a disturbance; it wasn't like there weren't any powerful cultivators across the vast lands.

"However, you can refine the Demonic Qi," Small Tower suddenly said. "That can at least increase your cultivation by three layers and strengthen your physique. The Indestructible Heaven Scroll will likely be able to reach Rock Cliff Tier."

Ling Han nodded, sitting down cross-legged at once. He waved his right hand, and the lump of Demonic Qi appeared before him.

Inside the Black Tower, he was a god.

"Refine!" he murmured, and with a bang, the Demonic Qi dissipated, enveloping him like mist.

This was energy cultivated by a god. Even with such a lump of it, Ling Han would never be able to refine it normally; perhaps someone in the Shattering Void Tier would have some chance to succeed, but a person in the Gushing Spring Tier definitely couldn't do it.

However, in the Black Tower, he was omnipotent; so what if it was the energy cultivated by a god? It could only keep quiet and be refined by him.

"Ugh!" The Demonic Qi entered his body; Ling Han immediately groaned, and his body inflated one fold, turning him into a fatty. The energy within the Demonic Qi was too abundant... it was of

the God Tier after all—even if it was only a tiny bit, it was still surprisingly powerful.

The Strange Fire immediately became restless, sending out a thought to Ling Han about wanting to "feed."

Ling Han was originally a bit "stuffed," so he naturally didn't mind sharing it a little. As a result, a fierce flame was released from his left hand, and then immediately disappeared; the Strange Fire had already stopped all movements.

So full it burst?

Ling Han swiped with his divine sense and stopped worrying. The Strange Fire probably absorbed powerful energy and was now in hibernation to absorb it easily. When it awakened, it definitely could transform into a higher level.

Without worries, Ling Han went full throttle, absorbing the energy.

His spring's eye expanded, his physique improved, even his soul slightly grew!

Chapter 247: Refining Demonic Qi

God Tier power was absolutely a splendid tonic, only slightly inferior to God Tier medicine.

Before, Ling Han ate the root of that God Tier medicine and improved his physique by whole lot, even almost forming Rock Cliff Body; however, his cultivation barely improved. This was because a true treasure would only increase the foundation just like the best steel should be used on a knife's edge—it wouldn't be wasted on increasing cultivation.

After establishing a firm foundation, would he need to worry about not increasing cultivation fast enough?

However, this surge of power also increased his cultivation quickly as well. This meant that a part of the power was actually "wasted." Of course, Ling Han needed to reach the higher tiers, so he naturally wouldn't mind.

Moreover, he got the Demonic Qi for free, how could he be picky?

Shua , a figure came dashing from ahead, with all four limbs on the ground yet surprisingly smooth movements. In just an instant, the figure ran up to him; who else could it be other than Hu Niu?

"Ling Han baddy, Niu wants to eat too!" The little girl pounced and opened her mouth, inhaling a few whiffs of Demonic Qi.

Ling Han had thought to stop her, but then recalled that Hu Niu absorbed even a godly medicine's root, and decided that this tiny bit of Demonic Qi shouldn't be a problem for her; it was unlikely to make her burst, so he shared some with the little girl.

Fortunately, Hu Niu wasn't reckless, and only absorbed a bit before sitting down on the ground to refine the energy.

Strange Fire hibernated, Hu Niu meditated, and Ling Han meditated too; only Small Tower was leisurely vibrating lightly.

Weng, weng, weng, within Ling Han's Dantian, a violent transformation was occurring. If his divine sense turned into a human figure for comparison, then the spring's eye was equivalent to a five hundred meter long lake, but now it expanded five fold, reaching an extreme.

Ling Han was an experienced person, immediately realizing that he had reached the peak of the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

According to the usual way of doing things, he should turn the second origin nucleus into a spring, and then repeat the earlier process. However, where was the second nucleus for him to liquidize now? Could he only cultivate to the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?

Of course not!

He immediately discovered this limit wasn't extremely stable. He only needed to attack it a little to break through it.

Comprehension of the Tier wasn't a problem, so he only needed energy; however, the Demonic Qi entered his body, so energy flooded him so much that his body expanded by a fold—there were no issues.

'Break!'

The terrifying energy lightly surged, and the spring's eye immediately broke through the original limit, instantly expanding by one fold, then gradually slowing down. However, it still didn't slow down much, because the energy from the Demonic Qi was far from exhausted.

Second layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

Ling Han knew he broke through, but his Dantian still only had one spring's eye. Put anywhere, this would be considered the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

He sighed, it was not that he wanted to be a poser, but he was

forced to be one.

Ling Han revealed a smile at that thought. When he reached the peak of the first layer, he made a comparison; his spring's eye was a hundred times larger than that in his previous life!

This was because his spring's eye was formed by a Five Element Origin nuclei, and it also fused nine of them; if would be weird it weren't that exaggerated.

However, in comparison, a hundred times more energy had to be spent to expand the spring's eye to the limit, which equaled a hundred times more time spent on cultivation. If not for him obtaining the Demonic Qi, he would've needed two months to complete it.

He estimated that the remaining Demonic Qi should be enough to push him up two or three more small tiers.

'Rush, rush, rush!'

Time quietly passed. Under the nourishment of the energy of the Demonic Qi, the spring's eye expanded to its extreme once again. His body trembled as the door to the third layer of the Gushing Spring Tier opened up to him.

This speed was shockingly fast; third layer middle period, late period, peak, and a breakthrough again!

It lasted till the middle period of the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier—the Demonic Qi was finally exhausted at that point. Ling Han smiled faintly, opening his eyes.

He was now in a weird condition.

His cultivation was in the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but all would see it as the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. His true power surpassed the ninth layer of the Gushing spring Tier, and his battle prowess... even without using his trump card, he could easily shoot up to fifteen stars.

As outsiders saw it, that would be a first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier with fifteen stars or above battle prowess; just how heaven-defying was that?

Besides, his physique also broke through to Rock Cliff Body. Not only was his defense greatly increased, but so was his ability to refine two more drops of the Indestructible True Fluid.

Ling Han raised his right hand, shaking it lightly. Black light surged out, opening up to form a net, as if it were lines of fabric that formed a certain character. However, these black lines adhered to his palm, and couldn't be shot outwards.

He indistinctly felt that these black lines were extremely scary, because he himself definitely didn't want to touch them even a bit.

This was the remnant of the Demonic Qi he refined.

"Small Tower, what is this?" Ling Han asked.

"Power of Regulation," Small Tower replied without any delay.

Ling Han was shocked for a moment. Small Tower lost its memory, so he only asked casually without any expectations, but unexpectedly, he actually received an answer.

"What's the Power of Regulation?" he asked again.

Small Tower oscillated slightly, as if pondering. After a while, it said, "I'm not quite sure, but it's very impressive."

'Who would've thought a tool spirit could say something so irresponsible!'

"Ya!" Hu Niu jumped up fiercely, and with a peng , she appeared over thirty meters above the ground. When she landed, the little girl couldn't help but jump in joy, and said, "Niu broke through!"

Ling Han's swept by, only to see that Hu Niu had reached the peak of the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier; if she went up a just a teeny tiny bit, she could become a Gushing Spring Tier martial artist.

Based on what Ling Han knew, this little girl's cultivation speed was definitely unprecedented, something that would never reappear in the world. Even if he was a Heaven Tier reincarnator with a God Tier Spirit Base, he could only pale in front of Hu Niu.

"Niu's going to fight ten!" Hu Niu laughed aloud.

Ling Han snickered, and grabbed with his right hand. The Demon Birth Sword already appeared in his hand, immediately putting up a fierce struggle, but inside the Black Tower, there wasn't any use in being a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool—the Black Tower restrained it completely.

With a thought, the Black Tower's power immediately activated, washing away the Demonic Qi inside the Demon Birth Sword.

He immediately discovered that the Demon Birth Swords spirit was already connected with the Demonic Qi, and it could no longer be severed. If he were to refine the Demonic Qi, then the spirit would die along with it.

He only slightly hesitated, then decided to continue, for a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool that couldn't be used by him was useless. The spirit's existence would only be counter-productive—once it left the Black Tower, it would unhesitantly kill him.

Since that was the case, he naturally wiped away the spirit as he could slowly produce and nourish a new one.

Hong , the Black Tower's mighty force swept by, and in that instant, the Demon Birth Sword's spirit and Demonic Qi were annihilated without a single trace left behind.

Ling Han picked up the exceptional sword, trying to activate the martial intent in it.

If the spirit didn't die and was willing to help, a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool could release the power of the Shattering Void Tier, allowing Ling Han to walk rampant on these vast stretches of land. However, the spirit died, so Ling Han's power was necessary to

awaken the martial intent in the blade, activating the power of the Spirit Tool.

He exerted a lot of strength, and saw that a single line of fabric on the blade lit up.

Chapter 248: Battling Demon Emperor

Too weak—his current strength was really too weak. He could barely initiate a tiny shred of martial intent because he had a tiny bit of Heaven Tier's divine sense.

Ling Han nodded—it would do. At least, this sword was a genuine Tenth Tier artifact, and although only a tiny shred of martial intent could be activated, Shattering Void Tier warriors were still so powerful that even a shred of martial intent was super-kickass already.

Moreover, the stronger he was, the more power of the Demon Birth Sword could he activate. Sooner or later, he'd make this Tenth Tier Spirit Tool regain its glory.

The problem was, his power was too weak—if it was exposed that he possessed a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, then just how many covetous eyes would it attract?

He secretly decided that he would try not to use the Demon Birth Sword unless he had no other choice.

Now it was time to fight with that Demon Emperor.

Ling Han looked outside through the Black Tower, only to see that Rong Huan Xuan was expectedly still searching for him, looking like he'd go through all tedious means to achieve his goal.

His figure flickered, and he was already in the outside world.

"Huh?" Seeing Ling Han appear soundlessly, Rong Huan Xuan instantly revealed a shocked expression. If Ling Han could appear by his side right now and launch a surprise attack... wouldn't Ling Han be able win easily?

Ling Han smiled lightly, and said, "Should I call you Rong Huan Xuan, or Asura Demon Emperor?"

Rong Huan Xuan's soul should've been killed off, and now Asura

Demon Emperor's soul possessed this physical body.

"Youngster, this lord originally wanted to possess your body, but never did I think you could run so fast!" Rong Huan Xuan laughed. "Call this lord whatever you want. Wait until this lord rules the world later, this lord will naturally reclaim the title of Asura Demon Emperor."

Ling Han shook his right hand, and the Demon Birth Sword already appeared in his hand. He brandished his sword in a flower-like pattern and said, "If you die here, there won't be any later!"

"Hahahaha!" Rong Huan Xuan laughed aloud, and then shook his head. "Perhaps you can destroy this lord's body, but it doesn't matter. This lord can still possess another! If this lord was so easily annihilated, then how would this lord have been divided into nine parts and suppressed in various mystery realms?"

"So you didn't lie about this part, you really got dismembered." Ling Han laughed.

Rong Huan Xuan's expression turned cold and he said, "In front of this lord, you dare to behave insolently?"

"What, you want me to call you 'lord'?" Ling Han laughed.

"Years ago, countless people knelt before this lord, and those infinitely stronger than you weren't even worth my attention. Who do you think you are?" Rong Huan Xuan said in disdain.

"Alright, alright, a real man doesn't boast about his past achievements. I am indeed merely someone in the Gushing Spring Tier, but you're not any better." Ling Han waved his hand dismissively.

"Detestable brat!" Rong Huan Xuan's expression became serious. "It just so happens that the owner of this body harbors an extremely deep killing intent towards you, and this lord also wants to kill you, so go die!"

He brazenly unleashed a palm with infinite black light surging

from it—it was like it turned into knots of snakes, attacking toward Ling Han.

Ling Han had no fear. Although Asura Demon Emperor escaped confinement, he was still confined to a Gushing Spring Tier warrior's body, and he was much less threatening; otherwise, Ling Han wouldn't even appear—even if the sky collapsed, someone else would uphold it.

He swung the Demon Birth Sword and sliced towards Rong Huan Xuan.

"Damn it, you actually wiped away this lord's consciousness on the sword?" Rong Huan Xuan originally had a cold smile at the corner of his lips, thinking to order the sword's spirit to activate its power to kill Ling Han directly, but he discovered that the command he sent was like a stone that sunk in the bottom of the sea.

He should've been able to realize immediately that his divine sense decreased by a bit, but he was now fused with Rong Huan Xuan's body—that caused him to grow much less sensitive, and so he only realized the command was useless now

'This brat is too weird!'

Slowly penetrating the Demon Birth Sword with his power and corroding the spirit within to subdue it took him several millennia; at the same time, this largely weakened the formation's power, allowing Rong Huan Xuan to take away the Demon Birth Sword.

Who would've thought that with just over a day's effort, Ling Han completely wiped away his divine sense from the Demon Birth Sword.

'Wait, wrong!'

Since part of his divine sense was fused with the sword's spirit, causing them to share their life and death, the destruction of his divine sense contained in the sword meant the sword's spirit also

died!

He sighed in relief—if the Tenth Tier Spirit Tool unleashed its power, his current body would truly be unable to defend against it!

As he was a special being which was a soul and had no body to begin with, he wouldn't be killed together with the body he possessed right now. However, he had been suppressed for several millennia, which definitely hurt his Origin Qi, and furthermore, he had just expended a vast amount of Demonic Qi to stop Ling Han. If he had to possess yet another body, he would definitely suffer serious injuries.

Thus, he wouldn't want this body to be destroyed.

Ling Han smiled lightly and said, "This sword would be wasted on you."

'Sh!t!'

Even with Asura Demon Emperor's temperament, he still had the urge to curse. With his status and identity, when he mentioned being suppressed for several millennia, people would almost be scared to death, and yet this junior actually looked down on him?

"Hmph, you possess a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, but so what? Its impossible for you to activate its power—just let this lord send you to your grave!" Rong Huan Xuan sneered and opened his mouth to spit out strings of black Qi, which surged and turned into bundles of black spikes.

This wasn't Asura Demon Emperor's Demonic Qi, but Rong Huan Xuan's Corpse Qi!

Ling Han's expression became serious as he held the Demon Birth Sword in front with the tip pointing slightly downward. Endless sword intent condensed, forming endless vortices in the surrounding.

Rong Huan Xuan's expression suddenly changed and he said, "What sword technique is this? Huh, this lord remembers seeing it

somewhere?"

Mysterious Three Thousand!

Ling Han unleashed his sword and Origin Power surged, turning into an array of light... this was a transformation after reaching the Gushing Spring Tier—Spiritual Qi began to accumulate, turning into a hundred swords made of Origin Power!

The Three Styles of Black Origin could only be cultivated when one reached the Gushing Spring Tier. He had the power of the Gushing Spring Tier, but he couldn't unleash the full potential of the Three Styles of Black Origin.

Now that he reached the Gushing Spring Tier, at least Mysterious Three Thousand was showing its true loftiness.

"This wave of sword intent... Heaven's Sword Sect!" Rong Huan Xuan's eyes suddenly constricted, revealing an obvious sense of fear. However, the attack already reached him, so he could only ward off the blow by flipping both palms, sending out waves of black Qi—though whether it was Corpse Qi or Demonic Qi was a mystery.

Peng, peng, peng, the hundred swords pierced through, beating Rong Huan Xuan into a persimmon as they blazed with sword light.

Rong huan Xuan shielded his head with one hand while his other hand shielded his heart as black-colored Demonic Qi coiled around his hands. Meanwhile, the rest of his body was riddled with thousands of gapping wounds. Blood gushed out violently and white bones were revealed on his arm; however, his head and heart were successfully protected.

"Heaven's, Sword, Sect!" Rong Huan Xuan said one word at a time, clenching his teeth and appearing extremely furious. Waves of black Qi coiled activated in his body, healing his wounds immediately at a visible level.

Chapter 249: Leaving the Mystery Realm

Ling Han had already witnessed it previously. When Rong Huan Xuan lost his arm, Asura Demon Emperor still managed to force it to grow back. This recovery ability was really quite incredible. Upon seeing it a second time, he could feel nothing but astonishment.

This recovery ability was already good enough to compare to the Indestructible True Fluid, but his maximum now was only three drops of the Indestructible True Fluid.

But on a second thought, what cultivation level was Asura Demon Emperor at? The God Tier! Though despite being an ultimate warrior of the God Tier, he was trapped in the body of a martial artist in the Gushing Spring Tier and thus unable to display his abilities to the fullest. Nevertheless, he should still have some special skills. Otherwise, he would not have been suppressed all those years ago, but instead killed off a few hundred times.

Additionally, Asura Demon Emperor obviously recognized the Mysterious Three Thousand and even managed to say these three words, Heaven's Sword Palace.

The Heaven's Sword Sect and the Heaven's Sword Palace, together with the Three Styles of Black Origin, meant that there was definitely a close link between these two existences.

"Heng, I did not think that you were actually a disciple of the Heaven's Sword Palace. I cannot leave you alive!" Rong Huan Xuan declared grimly. He took a great leap, and hong, there actually gushed out a black mist from behind him, making it seem as if he had grown out wings. He was actually able to move as easily and freely in the air as he liked.

The God Tier was still God Tier, after all. Even if he was currently forcibly trapped in the body of a mere Gushing Spring Tier martial artist, he was still able to display shocking abilities.

Ling Han did not feel fear. The Demon Birth Sword once again moved to attack, exploding in an array of bright afterimages.

This was an actual Level Ten¹ Spirit Tool. Even if there was no martial intent to activate it, merely the treasured sword itself already possessed a terrifying might. It was astonishingly sharp, and what would not immediately be severed after being sliced by it? As Sword Qi danced, it was as if the Sword Emperor himself was still alive and possessed an invincible might.

Rong Huan Xuan suffered continuous attacks, and his flesh and blood continued to fly in all directions. However, Demonic Qi possessed a powerful recovery ability, so he would be able to instantly recover and be well enough to fight again.

But his Demonic Qi did not have an endless supply. Previously, he had already expended over half of his Demonic Qi to imprison Ling Han, and taking over Rong Huan Xuan's body had also expended quite a lot of Demonic Qi. If he continued to use it to endlessly to heal his injuries, even he, Asura Demon Emperor, would not be able to bear it.

"Damn! Damn!" Rong Huan Xuan roared loudly at the sky. "Such a piece of trash, when I was at my full power, merely one look would be enough to kill him off 10,000 times, but now a weakling like this actually managed to wound me. I'm practically going to die with fury!"

"If you do indeed die with fury, I would be quite delighted," Ling Han said calmly.

Rong Huan Xuan became even more angered. This brat actually still dared to make sarcastic remarks at him!

However, his current body was really too weak, and his Demonic Qi was unable to control Ling Han either, which meant that his greatest weapon was rendered ineffective. Now, what else could he do except continuing to be beaten?

"Heng, I have just escaped my prison, so I will spare you this once. The next time we meet, I shall definitely tear you apart!" Rong Huan Xuan threw down a line that fit the situation and immediately scrambled into the Three Lives Corpse Caskets.

The most important thing now was not to battle Ling Han to death, but to seek out the other eight Mystery Realms that had the parts of his soul suppressed within. The moment he managed to completely reform his soul, he would immediately recover the cultivation level of the God Tier.

Hong , the copper coffin moved and rushed towards the altar, abruptly crashing into the big crack that had formed there previously.

Ling Han could not help but give him the middle finger, expressing his disdain. However, the Three Lives Corpse Caskets was also a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, so even if he had the Demon Birth Sword, he would not be able to destroy it. Thus, he could only let things go for now.

However, in the next instant, his expression changed dramatically. The earth was rumbling, and one after another, cracks opened up. These cracks were like a spider web that spread all over the ground, but it was a great number of times wider than actual spider's silk.

...The whole ground was currently transforming into an uncountable number of ravines!

F***!

Even when leaving, this Asura Demon Emperor would still not forget to cause trouble. He must have controlled the Three Lives Corpse Caskets and crashed it into the core of the Mystery Realm. Now, the whole realm was about to fall apart! This immortal monster had been suppressed here for millennia, so he had to be more familiar with the situation of this place than anyone else.

Peng! Peng! Peng!

One after another, bursts of fire from the ground soared upwards, and blazing lava was also gushing out. The whole plain had instantly become hell on earth. Thankfully, there were not many living beings here. Otherwise, this would definitely be a great calamity.

Ka, ka, ka . The whole space was no longer stable, and multiple cracks appeared.

This Mystery Realm was really going to perish.

All of a sudden, Ling Han was not able to care about anything else. With a flash, he had entered into the Black Tower. The current him only had the ability to protect himself. As for what the other people in the Mystery Realm would face, that was not something he could control.

Hong , a powerful force burst out and the whole Mystery Realm exploded outwards. The mustard seed ² the Black Tower had transformed into also gushed out, tossed into an unknown direction.

Ling Han continued to observe from within the Black Tower. The Black Tower passed through void and landed in a forest.

In a flash, he left the Black Tower. His eyes took a casual sweep over his surroundings, but he experienced a great shock from this. Apparently, a gigantic piece of land had crashed down, and the original forest was no longer visible, being completely crushed beneath. He had no idea how many living beings had died in this disaster.

Asura Demon Emperor was really a demon indeed. He obviously could leave the Mystery Realm calmly, yet he still chose to destroy the whole Mystery Realm. That was still all right, but the whole Mystery Realm crashed down from empty air, causing an even more terrifying amount of bloodshed and loss of life.

The whole forest had been crushed into nothingness. What kind of level of loss of life was this? Thankfully, the bigger part of the Mystery Realm's "body" had been cut off in midair. Otherwise, if the whole Mystery Realm had really crashed down, then the whole country would probably have been flattened, and that would be even more horrifying.

Ling Han shook his head. Only after he had left the forest far behind did he summon Liu Yu Tong and the others out of the Black Tower. When they heard Ling Han's words about the current situation, both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were unbearably astonished.

They journeyed for a while longer, and finally managed to reach a small town. They asked about their current location—thankfully, they were still within the boundary of Rain Country. However, they were over 2,000 miles away from the Imperial City.

Ling Han had no shortage of money. After buying four Iron Blood Horses as their means of transport, they rushed back to the Imperial City immediately.

The Iron Blood Horse was a very good mount as it possessed a terrifying stamina. They were in a rush to get back to the Imperial City, and so after a mere three days, they managed to return there.

There were already some who had returned.

According to them, the majority suddenly felt an unknown tremble in their bodies, and were suddenly forced out of the Mystery Realm—they had not seen that scene of utter destruction. Ling Han finally understood. At the moment Asura Demon Emperor escaped his prison, those who had been on the other side of the thunder river were sent out of the Mystery Realm, but because he had been within the array, he had not been similarly sent out.

These people were really very fortunate. Otherwise, there would definitely not be many who would have been able to make it out

alive.

Because they had departed for too long, both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan had to return to their respective clan or master to inform them of their safety. Ling Han was naturally not going to stop them, and he too returned to his own courtyard. He saw Guang Yuan and Zhu Wu Jiu come and receive him, saying that they had returned for quite a number of days.

"Yi!" Guang Yuan took a few looks at him, and suddenly jumped up, looking as if he had seen a ghost. He exclaimed in shock, "Why are you already in the Gushing Spring Tier?"

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "Big Brother Guang, no matter what, you are still an elite of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. How could you act so flustered? Don't you think it doesn't match your status?"

"F*** status. Brat, you were obviously in the first layer of the Element Gathering Tier a month ago, but how are you now in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?" Guang Yuan exclaimed in shock, not bothering at all about the fact that he was an elite of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Zhu Wu Jiu was shocked as well. Then, as if he understood the situation, he said, "Young Master Han must have gotten an unbelievably great fateful opportunity within the Mystery Realm. That's why he managed to complete such a massive leap! Congratulations, Young Master Han!" he said sincerely.

Chapter 250: Feng Yan Makes Another Move

After chatting for a while with Guang Yuan and Zhu Wu Jiu, Ling Han returned to his room, where he played with Hu Niu for a while. Then, he began his massive shopping trip.

He had decided to move into the Black Tower.

This was the very safest place in the whole world. Moreover, if he encountered any danger, was imprisoned by someone, or was trapped in some kind of dangerous place, he could entirely live for a while in the Black Tower in rest and relaxation, waiting calmly for the danger to pass.

Bed, chairs, table, as well as various kinds of food. Anyways, the first level of the Black Tower was overwhelmingly large anyways, being practically a world of its own.

En, he could also bring chickens, ducks, pigs, goats, and cows in. He could even dig a pond or a stream to rear fish, making it into a self-sufficient separate world.

Ling Han asked Small Tower about the possibility of such a thing, and Small Tower confirmed that this was indeed possible. The space within the Black Tower was indeed capable of becoming just like a Mystery Realm—an independent world.

Because he was busy with his own matters, he did not pay any attention to the fact that Liu Yu Tong had not come by for a few days. Meanwhile, a growing variety of miscellaneous items appeared within the originally monotonous space inside the Black Tower.

Ling Han had not only grown Spirit Grass, but also ordinary trees, grass, as well as a vegetable field. He had originally worried about the fact that these plants would quickly wither since one year inside the Black Tower was equivalent to one thousand years

in the outside world, but the reality of the matter was not so.

Time in the space in the first level of the Black Tower was not sped up, because though it was said that one year was equal to a thousand years, it was actually referring to the fact that time could be sped up to a maximum of a thousand years, and not that it would really be as long as a thousand years.

After only growing them for a couple of days, the vegetables here were obviously growing extremely well, and could completely be harvested for food. But afterwards, they did not die of age, and instead grew stronger and stronger, looking like they were heading in the direction of becoming giants.

For example, the carrots directly grew out of the ground as if they had become big trees.

Ling Han dug out some and made a meal of it. Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu and Hu Niu all exclaimed that it was delicious. Ling Han tried some himself, and the taste was indeed extremely delicious. It was not that he was a very good cook, but the ingredient itself was too excellent on its own.

Ling Han also set out a number of areas in the Black Tower for rearing chickens, goats, pigs, and cows. These animals fed on the plants growing in the herb garden and sometimes would even eat some lower grade Spirit Grass. After rearing them for a short while, most probably these chickens, goats, pigs, and cows would also become extremely delicious.

What a good chance of getting fine food.

Ling Han had killed Feng Luo. Previously, because the Devil Sky Mystery Realm had just opened, it had not created much of a ruckus, but now that he had returned, and the matter of the Devil Sky Mystery Realm had also ended, logically, there should be a lot of people coming to make trouble with him.

However, the truth of the matter was it was as if nothing had

happened at all, and everything was astonishingly peaceful.

On the fifth day, a sudden big piece of news exploded in the whole of the Imperial City—the princess of the Liu Clan, one of the Eight Great Clans, Liu Yu Tong, was going to get married!

One of the Two Beauties of the Imperial City, Liu Yu Tong, was going to get married?

Who was the groom?

All of a sudden, the whole Imperial City was stirred up. The young men of all the clans, no matter the size of the clan, were all struck with envy and jealousy, but were at the same time curious about the identity of the groom. Who was the man who had actually managed to achieve the feat of bringing home everyone's dream girl and dream?

It was actually... Feng Ming!

Who was Feng Ming? And what relationship did he have with Feng Luo?

The answer was very quickly revealed. Feng Ming was Feng Yan's cousin, and was currently twenty years old. He was a completely ignorant and incompetent guy, previously known as the Two Trashes of the Feng Clan together with Feng Luo. He had not even broken through to the Element Gathering Tier yet, but was avid of all the vices—feasting, drinking, womanizing, and gambling.

How could such a piece of trash be qualified to get married with Liu Yu Tong? And how could the Liu Clan actually agree to marry such a genius elite like Liu Yu Tong to such a piece of crap?

The Liu Clan were not idiots. Not only were they not idiots, they were also one of the Eight Great Clans of the Imperial City, and were only beneath the Imperial Family in terms of power.

Then what kind of benefit had Feng Yan thrown onto the table, or perhaps what threats had he issued, that forced the Liu Clan to make this decision?

The Liu Clan had already spread out the news. Three days from now would be the day of the marriage between Liu Yu Tong and Feng Ming.

All the young men of the Imperial City were absolutely defiant and rebellious upon hearing this news. What right did Feng Ming have to marry Liu Yu Tong? Even such a piece of trash could manage to embrace an extreme beauty; wasn't that like a harsh slap to everyone's faces?

However, there were still many who were in the know—wasn't Liu Yu Tong Ling Han's woman? Why was she suddenly getting married with Feng Ming? What was going on here?

The enmity between Feng Clan and Ling Han was no secret. He had first crippled Feng Luo's arms, then killed him off directly. This was definitely considered a life-or-death enmity. It would not end unless one side was completely defeated.

Now Feng Ming was going to publicly marry Liu Yu Tong, wasn't that a slap to Ling Han's face then?

Definitely. Allowing a piece of trash to marry Liu Yu Tong... Not only was it a slap to Ling Han's face, it was a slap strong enough to make his face swell! If Ling Han could still tolerate this matter, then how would he be able to face others in the future?

Interesting, very interesting. There was definitely going to be an exiting show at the wedding three days later.

When the news spread into Ling Han's ears, he was slightly stunned before he realized that Liu Yu Tong had not come by these few days. It was not because that she was too busy to come visit, but because she should have been placed under house arrest by the Liu Clan, and had no way to leave at all.

She was his little female attendant!

Ling Han tapped the table lightly. The wedding would be held three days later, which meant that Feng Yan had long returned to

the Imperial City and was now naturally aware that Feng Luo had died by his hand. However, this guy actually bore with it and did not directly charge here to battle him to death. Instead, Feng Yan called Feng Ming over from Da Yuan City, and had the latter marry Liu Yu Tong to humiliate Ling Han.

In the eyes of others, he should be a romantic young man. He had two such extremely beautiful women by his side, so he definitely had to be extremely fond of the two of them. Thus, Feng Yan arranged for Feng Ming to rob him of what he cherished as a strike against Ling Han.

This was already proof enough of the depths of the hatred Feng Yan held for him. He was no longer satisfied with destroying Ling Han's mortal body, but instead wanted to drive him to madness first and have Ling Han die in deepest despair.

...What could be more horrible than watching the woman he loved get married with a piece of trash, then rush over to try and stop the wedding but instead be killed?

There was nothing wrong with Feng Yan's thought process—although Ling Han did not think of Liu Yu Tong as his woman, with his personality of protecting his own people, how could he allow his little female attendant be forced into matrimony?

Which meant that he was definitely going to make a big fuss at the wedding three days later, but the question was: how?

His cultivation was now only in the Gushing Spring Tier and he did not have the right to command the Liu Clan, which was one of the Eight Great Clans. If they really came to blows, even if he had the Black Tower to instill power into him and forcibly upgrade his cultivation level to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, the Liu Clan had a powerful warrior of Spiritual Pedestal Tier on standby—even if he was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it was as easy as turning over his hand to completely suppress him for such a powerful elite.

If he revealed the Black Tower, then he would definitely be able

to eliminate all in his way. But there was too much involved in that. Small Tower said that it was possible that the true ultimate existences would be drawn out, and the final conclusion would definitely end with his death and the Black Tower being snatched away.

What could he do that would allow him to both save his little female attendant and retreat unscathed?

"Brat, are you planning to attend the wedding?" After hearing the news, both Guang Yuan and Zhu Wu Jiu came over.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "With Big Brother Guang to protect me, even if it was the lair of a dragon or the den of a tiger, I would dare to charge in."

Guang Yuan's face instantly darkened. What kind of place was the Liu Clan? That was a place that had an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier on standby. What was the point of a weakling going over then, to purposely look for a beating? He hurriedly waved his hands continuously in adamant refusal and said, "I'm not going to accompany you to your death!"

Yet Zhu Wu Jiu said, "Young Master Han, I shall go with you!" He was a loyal man. When he saw Ling Han was intending to create trouble at the wedding for his girlfriend, his blood started boiling in excitement. Additionally, it was only because of Ling Han that he had managed to obtain his vengeance, and he also owed Ling Han his life. So what if it was the Liu Clan, he would still charge in no matter what!

"You two foolish brats, f*** going! The Liu Clan has an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier on standby, the two of you going is practically delivering yourselves up to die!" Guang Yuan said with a roll of his eyes.

"To battle for love, I would not regret it even if I died a hundred times!" Zhu Wu Jiu declared passionately.

Ling Han rubbed his chin and said, "I would of course not do something like delivering myself up to die pointlessly! En, let's first head to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion."

Chapter 251: Getting Ready

Ling Han had long since been approved as a Black Grade high level alchemist. However, it was a very long process from verification all the way until he was actually presented with his proof of identity. However, over two months should be more than enough to have everything settled completely.

The status of a Black Grade high level alchemist was equivalent to gaining a life-saving golden plaque.

He brought Hu Niu along with him to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion.

"Young Master Han!"

"Young Master Han's here!"

After Xiao Ying came forward to receive them in the Main Hall, various other alchemists too came forward to pay their greetings, all of them looking at Ling Han excitedly.

Ling Han nodded with a smile and asked Fu Yuan Sheng, "Is the verification for my alchemist's status complete?"

"It's been completed for a long time. However, because Young Master Han had been in the Devil Sky Mystery Realm all this while, I did not have the opportunity to present it to you. Please allow me to bring it to you." Fu Yuan Sheng personally rushed to fetch a brocade case, and presented it to Ling Han respectfully.

Ling Han received it from him. Aside from three silver plaques, there was also a crystal-like object within. As long as Origin Power was injected inside this object, it would be activated and form a screen, on which Ling Han's name, the date of his verification as a Black Grade high level alchemist, as well as his witness were clearly written.

"Young Master Han, to tell you the truth, our Heaven's Medicine Pavilion belongs to the Alchemist Society, and the Alchemist

Society is an organization that includes all the alchemists of this land. It is in charge of verifying the grade of alchemists as well as working for the benefit of all alchemists. Young Master Han has not yet reached the age of twenty, but is already a Black Grade high level alchemist. This has caused a stir in the branch at the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, and the various Grandmaster Alchemists have all expressed their hopes that Young Master Han could pay a visit to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall," Fu Yuan Sheng explained with a smile, his eyes filled with an envy that he could not hide.

The Star Brilliance Palace Hall was the highest ranking branch that the Alchemist Society had in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, and there were seven Earth Grade alchemists on standby within. All of them were the really important people in this area, and now they actually said they wanted to see Ling Han. What kind of great honor was that?

Ling Han did not take this seriously at all. Instead, he felt a little uncomfortable.

Telling him to pay them a visit? What right did they have to do that?

"If they want to see me, then just let them come themselves. For the moment, I have no intentions to leave Rain Country yet," Ling Han said calmly.

Some wanted to rebuke him right at that moment, but they recalled Ling Han's monstrous ability and how he was a Black Grade high alchemist who could actually concoct Foundation Building Pills that were close to Earth Grade, which meant that he already had half a foot into the ranks of Earth Grade alchemists.

Thus, any ordinary Earth Grade alchemist really did not have the right to issue any commands to Ling Han.

"This..." Fu Yuan Sheng wiped off the sweat covering his forehead. In his opinion, being able to visit the Star Brilliance

Palace Hall was the stuff of dreams for every alchemist. But in Ling Han's case, not only was he completely uninterested, he instead wanted the extremely noble Grandmaster Alchemists to pay him a personal visit.

Ling Han gave a wave of his hand and said, "Let's just put this matter aside for the moment. There is another matter that I would like to request your help on."

"You need only say the word, Young Master Han," Fu Yuan Sheng hurriedly said with a bow, looking as if Ling Han was honoring him by simply requesting for his help.

Ling Han nodded, and asked, "The Liu Clan is planning to marry off their daughter three days from now. Are you aware of this matter?"

"Yes." Fu Yuan Sheng took a look at Ling Han and hesitated slightly, but still continued, "According to the information that has spread out from the Liu Clan, Feng Yue is already a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect, and is a Core Disciple. That's why the Liu Clan has agreed to this marriage."

Nonsense!

Ling Han shook his head. Even if it was Feng Yan who wanted to marry Liu Yu Tong, the Liu Clan might not agree either. Because although the Winter Moon Sect was powerful, there were still two Black Grade high level alchemists standing behind Ling Han, so he too had his powerful backers.

On the other hand, what benefits would the clan obtain from having their daughter marry a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect? Once a daughter has married out of the clan, that was equivalent to water that has been poured out. An alliance by marriage would usually only have symbolic meaning.

For example, how many princesses of the Imperial Family have been married out all these years? Most of them had been married

into the Eight Great Clans, but the Eight Great Clans were still the Eight Great Clans, and none of them had gotten any closer to the Imperial Family. On the other hand, the Eight Great Clans were still united together for additional security, opposing the Imperial Family both on the surface and secretly.

The Winter Moon Sect was not located in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. If they really abruptly extended their hands into this area, it would first engender the displeasure of the Imperial Family. The Imperial Family would naturally not dare to actually oppose the Winter Moon Sect publicly, but how could they not make life difficult for the Liu Clan?

Thus, even if the Liu Clan married Liu Yu Tong off to Feng Yan, that would only be a symbolic union, what more when the groom was Feng Ming.

According to Ling Han's deductions, Feng Yan must have given some kind of benefit to the Liu Clan, and this benefit was great enough to cause the Liu Clan to agree to sacrificing a talented elite who was their daughter.

"Young Master Han, the Winter Moon Sect has a powerful elite of Spiritual Infant Tier in their ranks. Unless the few Grandmasters of the Star Brilliance Palace Hall appeared... this would not be easily resolved!" He knew that the matter that Ling Han wanted his help on was definitely related to Liu Yu Tong's wedding.

Ling Han smiled and said, "It does not have to be so troublesome. It is merely one Feng Yan. By that time, you only need to bring some people to keep up appearances for me. There would be no need to take action."

Fu Yuan Sheng quickly nodded. Merely helping keep up appearances was of course no issue. He was one of the two Great Bosses of alchemy in Rain Country. Even the Liu Clan would not dare to say anything against him. Moreover, he still had the colossal entity that was the Alchemist Society behind him. Even

the Winter Moon Sect would not dare to really do anything to him.

En, Ling Han was also a Black Grade high level alchemist, and was one that had a foot into the ranks of Earth Grade. Even the higher ranks of the Winter Moon Sect would have to treat such a person politely, what more when Feng Yan was only the disciple of one of their lower ranks.

With such thoughts, Fu Yuan Sheng dismissed his worries. Whether Ling Han was able to snatch back Liu Yu Tong was another issue, but at least he himself would not be facing any danger.

However, would Ling Han really be able to snatch Liu Yu Tong back?

The Liu Clan was marrying off one of their daughters. No matter how much of a piece of trash she was being married off to, for the sake of the Liu Clan's reputation and pride, they would definitely not stand idly by and just watch Ling Han take away the bride. Putting aside their most powerful member at Spiritual Pedestal Tier, merely a few Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists standing out would be enough to take care of Ling Han.

What was Ling Han really intending to do?

Fu Yuan Sheng was very curious, but Ling Han did not say anything further, and after excusing himself, left quickly.

In the next two days, Feng Yan kept up an especially high profile. He challenged the Third Imperial Prince, Can Ye, and Zhao Huan, the three Core Disciples, one after another, and emerged victorious by completely dominating his opponents.

As this was not the Challenge Competition that would be held at the end of the year, thus even if he had won, he could not become a Core Disciple. However, everyone knew by now that Feng Yan had become a True Disciple of the Winter Moon Sect, and this identity was above the identity of a Core Disiciple of Hu Yang Academy by

who knows how many times.

Feng Yan was definitely going to leave Rain Country. Thus, he was obviously showing off his might, wanting to really make his name known before he left, stepping on all the geniuses of Rain Country on his way up.

According to those who had watched the battles, Feng Yan had already reached the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier by now. If he could still take one further step into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, then with his current age, he could be considered to have made history in Rain Country—as the youngest ever Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist.

Compared to Feng Yan's high profile, Ling Han kept up an extremely low profile. He sat all day inside his courtyard, being extremely patient.

Qi Yong Ye and the others had all paid him a visit, wanting to comfort him. It was obvious that Feng Yan had laid out a trap for Ling Han and was waiting for him to step right into this trap on the day of the wedding. At that time, both the Liu Clan and Feng Yan would have enough reason to kill Ling Han on the spot.

"Yi, how have you broken through to the Gushing Spring Tier already!?" They had yet to begin comforting him when they experienced a tremendous shock as they realized what cultivation level Ling Han was currently at.

Chapter 252: Persuasion

Ling Han smiled slightly and said, "I have only just broken through to the Gushing Spring Tier. What need is there for you to be so surprised?"

What need was there for them to be so surprised?

You had to understand that out of this group of people, the earliest among them who reached the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier had managed to do so in two years ago, yet they were still at the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier even now! And what about him? A few months ago, he was only in the fourth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, yet now he'd left them far behind and stepped into the Gushing Spring Tier.

And this was still not enough to astonish them!? This was practically a fatal shock!

"Ling Han, you're stimulating universal anger with this! Just take a look at how many miserable people here are still stuck at the peak of the Element Gathering Tier?" Qi Yong Ye immediately shouted. Even Baili Teng Yun was nodding repeatedly in agreement. He too was in the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier and now possessed the qualifications to attempt breaking through to the Gushing Spring Tier.

However, there was a deep moat that separated being qualified to attempt breaking through and having actually broken through, and this moat required who knows how much time to fill. If one was fortunate enough, he might be able to fill this moat before he reached twenty five years old.

But Ling Han wasn't even eighteen yet!

In the field of martial arts, these few years could not be ignored. If one was unable to break through to the Flower Blossoming Tier, every martial artist was still mortal and could possess a lifespan of

merely a hundred years.

"That's right!" Everyone was both jealous, and at the same time, happy for Ling Han.

"You're already in the Gushing Spring Tier even before you've reached eighteen. In the history of Rain Country, you could probably be counted amongst the top ten, right?" Li Dong Yue asked ruefully.

Ling Han merely smiled. If these people were to find out that Hu Niu was already in the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, who knows how extremely shocked they would become. However, Hu Niu had a particular ability that could conceal her aura, and if it was not for the fact that he still had a sliver of divine sense left behind from Heaven Tier, he would not have been able to sense her aura, either.

...Not even Guang Yuan was aware that the little girl had already reached the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier, and only thought her to be a slightly stranger child than most since she was always so energetic, as well as such a humongous glutton. Moreover, she was extraordinarily strong.

"Ling Han, will you be attending tomorrow's wedding?" The others finally came to the main topic.

"Why not?" Ling Han countered.

"That's the Liu Clan!" Qi Yong Ye said with a frown.

"So what if it is the Liu Clan?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

After being countered consecutively by Ling Han for two times straight, the others did not know what else they could say. It was obvious that Ling Han did not take the Liu Clan seriously at all.

"Big Brother Ling, I'll go with you tomorrow!" Li Hao forced out through gritted teeth. After being helped out by Ling Han so many times, it was now time for him to repay some of his debts.

"Me too!" Jin Wuji said in a deep voice.

Meanwhile, Zhu Wu Jiu merely smacked the hilt of his sword lightly, and gazed at him with sharp eyes that were filled with determination.

Qi Yong Ye and the others all sighed. A few months ago, Jin Wuji and Ling Han were still enemies, but now he was willing to risk everything for Ling Han's sake. Similarly, a few months ago, Ling Han and the Feng Clan were enemies, but not only had their enmity not been resolved, but their relations had degraded into something that would not end without one side being wiped out completely. Life was indeed full of mysteries.

Ling Han waved his hand and said, "You should all go and watch the excitement tomorrow. However, I will not allow any of you to make a move!"

When Qi Yong Ye, Li Dong Yue and the others heard Ling Han inviting them to go with him, they could not help but become anxious. They did not have the courage to oppose the Liu Clan, but when they heard Ling Han's last few words, they could not help but flush.

Even if Ling Han needed help, it would definitely not fall onto them who were still in the Element Gathering Tier. They really had much too high an opinion of themselves.

Ling Han's eyes swept over Zhu Wu Jiu and the other two. His strict gaze caused the three of them to nod subconsciously, not daring to say anything further.

"Hehe, then I too have no need to make a move, right?" Guang Yuan said with a laugh.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "If no one battles me, then there is naturally no need for Big Brother Guang to act, but if there are really any powerful elites, then Big Brother Guang, as my bodyguard, should naturally display your usefulness. With your

ability and reputation, Big Brother Guang, you would at least be able to battle ten opponents on your own!"

"I say, Brat Ling, are you trying to cause trouble for me?" Instantly, Guang Yuan looked miserable.

Ling Han merely smiled. If Guang Yuan did not retreat tomorrow, then he would not mind giving a hand to Guang Yuan, and in the future, not just the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, it was definitely not impossible for Guang Yuan to reach the Flower Blossoming Tier or even the Spiritual Infant Tier.

However, he was not a good Samaritan, so how could he simply give out such a big favor for no price at all?

If one wanted to get him to train them, then one needed to prove that they were qualified to become his friend and earn his trust.

As of now, Li Hao and Zhu Wu Jiu had passed, whereas Jin Wuji had to be observed for a while longer. Qi Yong Ye, Baili Teng Yun and the others, meanwhile, could only pass as casual friends.

Qi Yong Ye and the others continued to persuade him for a while longer, but when they saw Ling Han was completely unmoved, they could only leave helplessly.

The Third Imperial Prince arrived quietly not long after.

"I had never thought that Feng Yan has actually become a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect, and has even been taken in as a disciple by a powerful elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier!" The Third Imperial Prince said as soon as he had stepped through the doors. His face was filled with envy, as well as defiance.

At first, he was the strongest young genius of his age range, and the leader of the three Core Disciples of Hu Yang Academy, but yesterday, he was challenged by Feng Yan and completely defeated. This had to be because Feng Yan had obtained the secret inheritance of the Winter Moon Sect, and also the reason why he had been able to surpass him in cultivation and defeat him easily.

What gave him the right?

Feng Yan was merely a True Disciple of Hu Yang Academy, whereas he was an Imperial Prince of Rain Country and a Core Disciple! Why had the Winter Moon Sect chosen Feng Yan instead of him?

This caused the Third Imperial Prince to feel both envy and hatred.

Ling Han smiled faintly. The Third Imperial Prince's flustered and exasperated display caused his opinion of the former to instantly fall quite considerably, and he could not even bother with the latter's resentful complaints and merely pretended as if he had not heard a single word.

"Ling Han, what are your plans tomorrow?" the Third Imperial Prince asked seriously. This was his real purpose for coming.

Ling Han looked at the Third Imperial Prince and asked, "What plans does Your Imperial Highness want me to have tomorrow?"

The Third Imperial Prince could not help but smile. In his eyes, Ling Han was merely a stepping stone for him on his way to ascend the throne and he had never considered Ling Han as a friend, so everything had to be done for his benefit first and foremost. He said, "Feng Yan is currently very powerful, but not long after, he will leave Rain Country, so I am hoping you can bear with it for the moment."

"What Your Imperial Highness means is that I should stay here tomorrow?" Ling Han asked calmly.

"I know that girl from the Liu Clan is an outstanding beauty, but how could we who do great things be troubled by personal considerations? If you face off with Feng Yan now, you would be killed by him and my Imperial Father would only turn a blind eye to the matter. Thus, bear with it for the moment to exchange for a clear and boundless sky in the future," the Third Imperial Prince

advised.

From his mouth, Ling Han was made aware of the attitude of the Imperial Family—no matter how much of a fuss he and Feng Yan created with their personal enmity, the Imperial Family would not interfere. Just like how when he was attacked by Feng Yan in the middle of the street at midnight, when not a single Imperial Guard had appeared, and when he had crippled Feng Luo's arms, the Imperial Family too did not take any action; even when Feng Luo died by his hand, when he returned, he did not see the Imperial Family pursue the matter either.

Needless to say, as Feng Yan had entered the Winter Moon Sect, the Imperial Family would naturally not dare to take action against him. As for Ling Han, he had the two Big Bosses of alchemy to back him up now at first, and now he himself had become a Big Boss like them, so the Imperial Family similarly dared not make a move against him.

...Unless Ling Han did something that would weaken the authority of the Imperial Family.

Thus, just battle it out as much as the two of you liked, as it was a personal enmity anyways.

However, the backers on both sides could not act. Whether it was Fu Yuan Sheng killing off Feng Yan, or some elite of the Winter Moon Sect killing Ling Han, the Imperial Family would be unable to give a good explanation to the other side. If the backers on either side made a move, then the Imperial Family would be forced to interfere.

Ling Han smiled. Since he was now aware of the Imperial Family's bottom line, he could take advantage to turn the battle in his favor.

"I am going to attend tomorrow's wedding!" he said.

"You!" the Third Imperial Prince could not help but become

furious.

Chapter 253: The Seventh Imperial Prince

The Third Imperial Prince had thought at first that his earnest and well-meaning advice would have successfully persuaded Ling Han, but never thought that the latter would completely disregard his words. Thus, he could not help but be angry.

If it had been anyone else, he would have definitely rebuked him harshly, or even possibly thrown a harsh slap at him. But when he recalled that there were the two Big Bosses of alchemy standing behind Ling Han, he could only suppress the flames of rage burning in his heart and say, "Ling Han, what capability do you have to oppose Feng Yan? Putting aside the fact that you are not strong enough to oppose him, the Liu Clan would only have to send out a Spiritual Ocean clansman, and that would be enough to prevent you from even stepping in through their doors!"

Ling Han smiled and said, "I never thought that Your Imperial Highness would be so worried about me!"

The Third Imperial Prince of course knew that this was sarcasm, and instantly, his face darkened as he said, "Ling Han, don't lose your senses because of women. Don't forget, we are men who have great goals to aspire to!"

Ling Han shook his head internally. He realized that the Third Imperial Prince must have had no idea that he was already a Black Grade high level alchemist himself. Otherwise, the former would naturally have much more confidence in him, and would definitely not dare to speak to him in such a way.

In truth, he did not have any intention to deliberately conceal this matter. Thus, it was actually very easy to find out that that he had already gained the status of a Black Grade high level alchemist —at least, the Spirit Treasures Pavilion found out very early on, but for the one and only Third Imperial Prince, how could his information be so outdated?

Then, it must have been someone who had done something, which led to the Third Imperial Prince being still ignorant of this matter.

In the Imperial City, the only one who had the power to achieve this was... the Rain Emperor!

Everyone said that the current Rain Emperor was greatly skilled and a master of strategy, and was possibly the ruler who had the broadest vision since the establishment of Rain Country. Then, how could the Rain Emperor be completely unaware when his sons were all moving in secret and forming their own alliances?

Even if he was aware, he did not interfere or make any move to stop them. Obviously, the Rain Emperor wanted to see which of his sons was the most brilliant before he would pass on the throne. This could also be considered as a test of skill for the Imperial Princes.

Unfortunately, the Eldest Imperial Prince and Third Imperial Prince were completely unaware of this and thought that their actions were extremely secret, having no idea that the Rain Emperor was aware of everything they did.

Ling Han sighed. Most likely, the Third Imperial Prince had not passed the test.

If he was determined to put all his effort into supporting the Third Imperial Prince, then with the power in his hands, no matter how weak the Third Imperial Prince was, he could still somehow push him up to the throne, but who asked the Third Imperial Prince to cut off this path himself?

"Your Imperial Highness, Yu Tong is my friend, and I am definitely not one to give up on my friends!" Ling Han declared.

The Third Imperial Prince was practically about to explode in fury. He had advised him so patiently and earnestly, but why did Ling Han take no heed of his words? He said angrily, "Don't

pretend to be so noble and virtuous. If you want beautiful women, I can give you a thousand, or ten thousand! I can even give Zi Yan to you!"

In his heart, even Zi Yan was merely a tool he could manipulate. As long as she could help him ascend to the throne, he could discard her at any time.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "People who walk different paths cannot make plans together. Please leave, Your Imperial Highness!"

The Third Imperial Prince's face darkened, and he said, "Ling Han, have you forgotten about the Eye of Truth? Anyone who covets the secret treasure of the country would not be given a light punishment!"

"Is Your Imperial Highness threatening me?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

"Then you're on your own!" the Third Imperial Prince humped and left with a flourish of his robes.

What a hot temper!

Ling Han could not help but smile. If this guy knew that he was now already a Black Grade high level alchemist, what kind of expression would he have on his face? Would he be so overwhelmed with regret that he wanted to smash his head into a wall?

Not too long after, another person arrived.

The Eldest Imperial Prince.

Similar to the Third Imperial Prince, he was also trying to persuade Ling Han not to attend the wedding tomorrow. His attitude was much more forceful than the Third Imperial Prince, but the final result was the same. His efforts were all in vain, and he even slammed his hand onto the table in fury before leaving in a rage.

Ling Han sighed. This was obviously his personal business, but why were they all trying to bend him to their will, and upon his refusal, looked like they were the ones wronged? What kind of logic was that?

"Is Young Master Ling here?" At this moment, a knock once again was heard from the front doors.

He really had a lot of visitors today. If it was not for the fact that he had sent Hu Niu to rest in the Black Tower early on, most likely the little girl would have been awakened by the commotion quite a few times by now, and most probably would have jumped out in fury to bite the people who had disturbed her slumber.

Ling Han went over to open the door and saw there was a tall, slender young man standing at the doorway. He was quite handsome, and though his attire was quite casual, he carried on him a certain innate aura making him seem powerful even though he was completely calm.

"I am Qi Chang Yue. Please do not be angered by my disturbing you at such a late time tonight!" This young man looked to be about twenty years old and was at the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier. Among the younger generation of the Imperial City, he was not the least bit outstanding.

Another with the surname Qi.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "So it was you, Your Imperial Highness, the Seventh Imperial Highness."

Right, he was really quite popular, wasn't he? Now, all the three Imperial Princes who had the right to actually compete for the throne had all paid him a visit. However, he did not know if the Seventh Imperial Prince was also here to persuade him to not attend the wedding tomorrow.

The Seventh Imperial Prince also smiled, and said, "Young Master Ling must definitely be going to attend the wedding

tomorrow, right?"

"So what Your Imperial Highness means to say is that it is best that I don't go?"

"No!" The Seventh Imperial Prince shook his head, a sliver of anger appearing on his face. He said, "This is the land of the Rain Country, yet Feng Yan used the Winter Moon Sect as a threat in order to forcibly marry one of our women! If I was the Emperor, I would definitely have punched him so hard he would fly out of the country. I do not think that the Winter Moon Sect would dare to oppose the Rain Country just because of one little disciple. If they really did, then they would really become a joke to the whole Northern region."

As someone who had lived two lives, Ling Han naturally had sharp eyes. He could tell that although there was a bit of pretense in the Seventh Imperial Prince's words, that was really how he felt. However, as an Imperial Prince, his actions and words would always be a bit exaggerated.

"And so Your Imperial Highness is here to support me, then?"

The Seventh Imperial Prince nodded and said, "Just do as you wish tomorrow, Young Master Ling. I am willing to become your sturdy backer!"

Ling Han could not help but smile. "Why does Your Imperial Highness have such confidence in me? The Liu Clan has a powerful member of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier on standby, and with my limited ability... most likely, I wouldn't even be able to step in through the doors, right?"

These words were what the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes had used to try to persuade him, but now he was using them to test the Seventh Imperial Prince. He did not believe that a man who was capable of competing for the throne was a hot-headed man. Moreover, they had not even met before, so why would the Seventh Imperial Prince come to offer his support?

The Seventh Imperial Prince laughed heartily, and said, "A straightforward person does not resort to insinuations. To tell you the truth, I have done my investigation and discovered that Young Master Ling is someone who has gained three silver plaques. In Rain Country, not even my Imperial Father would dare do anything too harsh to Young Master Ling. At most, he would most possibly have you captured and chase you out of our borders."

Indeed, this guy knew that he had become a Black Grade high level alchemist, and that was why he had come so full-heartedly to support him.

Ling Han considered for a moment, then asked, "What kind of support are you intending to offer me, Your Imperial Highness?"

The Seventh Imperial Prince could not help but be delighted. He knew that Ling Han had already accepted him. If not, he would not possibly ask him such a question. He said quickly, "Though I do not have too much power, I am willing to give my support to you and offer you the assistance of two elites of Spiritual Ocean Tier."

Ling Han was surprised. Spiritual Pedestal Tier was the highest tier of power in Rain Country. Even the Rain Emperor himself was only able to ask for their help, and could not command them. Thus, the Seventh Imperial Prince being able to command the power of Spiritual Ocean Tier elites was something very impressive.

One had to understand that even Ling Han had only just managed to con a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite into becoming his bodyguard. Moreover, this bodyguard had not yet been tested.

"Then I shall gratefully accept Your Imperial Highness's aid, thank you!" he said, smiling.

Chapter 254: Going to the Liu Residence

The Seventh Imperial Prince was very tactful. He did not show any signs of arrogance as the supporter, and did not make any requests of Ling Han to do something in return for his assistance. He merely continued to talk with Ling Han about tomorrow, and about how he was going to coordinate with Ling Han's movements.

Ling Han was not reserved, either. If he was truthfully going to accept someone as a friend, then he would definitely not be reserved in asking his friends for help. The opposite was true as well. If his friend needed his help, he would not refuse, either.

The two of them conversed for a very long time. The Seventh Imperial Prince finally begged his leave, and when Ling Han escorted him to the doors, he smiled and said, "I will come find you to share a drink in the future, Your Imperial Highness."

"So will I!" the Seventh Imperial Prince laughed loudly, knowing that Ling Han had finally accepted him.

There was no exception among the three Imperial Princes. They all wanted to go through Ling Han instead of asking for Feng Yan's help to assist them on their way to the throne. That was because the latter was absolutely an impractical choice. The Rain Emperor would definitely not allow the Winter Moon Sect to interfere in the affairs of Rain Country, what more when it was a very important issue like the inheritance of the throne. Whichever Imperial Prince actually dared to make an alliance with Feng Yan would directly fall out of the Rain Emperor's favor.

Thus, though neither the Eldest nor Third Imperial Prince was very optimistic about Ling Han, they had merely come to persuade him not to be rash, and had absolutely no intention of switching to Feng Yan's side.

No matter what, Ling Han was still a citizen of Rain Country, and as for Feng Yan? Hehe.

The night passed, and the wedding day of the princess of the Liu Clan had arrived.

Anyone with the slightest bit of social status in the Imperial City turned their eyes to the Liu Clan. This day when the Liu Clan would be marrying off one of their daughters would definitely not be a fine and sunny day. On the other hand, a great storm could very possibly happen today. Naturally, if Ling Han was willing to be a coward, then nothing would happen, of course. It would only be a day when a deity-like woman would have to marry a piece of trash.

"Niu Niu, are you ready?" Ling Han asked.

"Niu has to look beautiful, wait!" Hu Niu called from inside the room.

Ling Han could not help but laugh loudly. When he entered the room to take a look, Hu Niu was putting on makeup in front of the copper mirror. She had painted her little face red and green, and looked like a monster. He walked over, took a towel and began to wipe the little girl's face. He said, "Niu Niu does not need to make up. You look most beautiful when you're completely clean."

Hu Niu was very pleased and obediently allowed him to wipe off the makeup on her face.

Ling Han shook his head. This little girl must have learnt this from Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan. Indeed, it was the nature of a woman to want to look beautiful. Even such a little girl had already learnt to show off her looks shamelessly.

"Let's go!" Ling Han held onto Hu Niu's little hand and walked out. When he arrived outside the courtyard, Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, Jin Wuji, and Li Hao approached.

"I say, brat, are you really planning to go make a big fuss?" Guang Yuan asked, looking very displeased.

"If you are afraid, you can stay behind," Ling Han said calmly.

"Pei, how could I be one who goes back on his word?" Guang Yuan humped angrily, pointed his finger at Ling Han, and said, "However, if I die at the Liu Residence today, I won't spare you even if I become a ghost!"

"From what I see, Big Brother Guang is a very lucky man, and is definitely not one who will have a short life," Ling Han said with a smile.

"You brat are definitely my unlucky star!" Guang Yuan still looked very displeased.

Ling Han laughed loudly. Guang Yuan still decided to take the risk with him, and he was very glad for this. He had indeed not thought wrongly of the former. Since he was willing to take such great risk with him, then he would definitely not treat him unfairly.

If Guang Yuan really encountered fatal danger, he would use the Black Tower to take him in. He did not care even if this would expose the fact that he had some kind of logic-defying treasure on him.

Zhu Wu Jiu and the others did not say anything. They merely followed closely behind Ling Han. Actions spoke louder than words.

The destination was the Liu Residence!

The six of them walked on, and very quickly, they arrived at the Liu Residence. The crimson front doors were wide open, and a crimson carpet was laid out on the ground. There was a group of servants at the doorway who were receiving the guests. As it was now close to noon, the guests that should be here had more or less already arrived, and it was a very lively scene at the doorway.

There were guests, and there were those who were not qualified to be invited—they were all standing outside, watching the excitement.

Ling Han and the others walked over. Zhu Wu Jiu and the other four very naturally fell behind a single step behind Ling Han. The main character today was Ling Han.

"Young Master, please show me your invitation." Immediately, a servant approached them, and smiled at Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled, and asked, "What if I don't have an invitation?"

"If you do not have an invitation, then you cannot enter!" The servant still maintained his smile. Today was a joyous day for the Liu Clan, so if it was preventable, it was best not to make any issue. Moreover, he could not see through the aura exuding from Ling Han at all, which obviously meant that the latter was stronger than him. If they came to blows, he would definitely be on the losing side.

As a result, he naturally hoped that he could coax Ling Han to leave peacefully.

Ling Han smiled, and said, "My name is Ling Han. Would it be possible to make an exception for me?"

Ling Han!

The servant got a scare from that. He had naturally heard of Ling Han's name. It could be said that the reason why Liu Yu Tong was getting married today was greatly related to Ling Han. If it was not for the fact that Ling Han was an enemy of Feng Yan, how could it be possible that Liu Yu Tong would marry such a character like Feng Ming?

"So it was Young Master Ling, please!" The servant made a gesture to allow Ling Han to pass.

Yi, he was not stopped?

Ling Han had initially planned to fight his way in, but had never thought that he would be able to step in through the front doors so easily. Hehe, looks like the Liu Clan was also indecisive about this marriage, and was not willing to become Feng Yan's weapon. Thus,

they simply decided to have the two of them to confront each other directly.

He strode through the main doors. Some outside had very sharp eyes, and when they saw that Ling Han had entered without needing to display his invitation, they could not help but exclaim at the unfairness of it. However, the servant glared at them and said, "That person just now was Ling Han, Young Master Ling!"

Instantly, everyone around was silenced. However, the silence was only momentary, and they began to whisper to one another. Ling Han had indeed come, and there would definitely be a grand show today.

"Hey, brother, just let us go in and watch!"

"That's right, we're not trying to get a free meal. Just having a spot to stand would be fine."

"At worst, we could pay entrance fees."

They all began to call out.

The servant glared at them, and said, "What kind of place do you all think this is? The marketplace, or the arena? If anyone of you still dare to spout nonsense, then I'll have you all apprehended!"

The Liu Clan was one of the Eight Great Clans. It was not a small issue even if it was only one of their doormen who was making the threats. This immediately caused them all to shut their mouths, not daring to say anything more. However, they all pricked up their ears. Even if they couldn't go in and see anything, then they'd just have to settle for simply listening.

Naturally, the news spread quickly. Moreover, Ling Han was the cause of today's wedding in the first place. He was one of the main characters. The news that he had arrived very quickly spread throughout the whole Liu Residence. All of them, including those who had come as guests, looked like they were here to watch a grand show.

"Ling Han!" "Young Master Han!" "Mister Ling!"

A considerable number approached, whereas the Eldest and the Third Imperial Prince stood amongst the crowd wearing slightly dark expressions. They were obviously very displeased with the fact that Ling Han had not heeded their advice and came.

Ling Han clasped his hands together and raised them in everyone's direction, which could be considered as having greeted them.

"Big Brother Ling!" A young man approached. He was about fifteen or sixteen years old, and had a slightly shy expression on his face, though there was an endless evil hidden in the depths of his eyes.

Yan Tian Zhao.

Ling Han gave a nod. Yet, he was quickly shocked, because he actually could not see through this young man!

Chapter 255: The Wedding Begins

Though Ling Han was only in the Gushing Spring Tier, he also had the eyes of someone who used to be in the Heaven Tier. He would be able to tell with a single glance someone's cultivation level as long as they were below the Heaven Tier.

But he actually couldn't see through Yan Tian Zhao now?

Had the latter already reached the Heaven Tier?

That was impossible. That was absolutely impossible. Even he, the Alchemy Emperor, had spent two hundred years to finally achieve this step, and no one had achieved such an impressive feat before him. Although it was impossible that no one managed to repeat his achievement, but there would definitely not appear a young man in his mid-teens who managed to reach the Heaven Tier.

Ling Han observed him closely, and could not help but frown faintly. He could somewhat sense an imcomparably evil aura from Yan Tian Zhao, but could not clearly describe what it exactly was.

But what could be confirmed was that this aura had formed a kind of barrier, which did not let him see through Yan Tian Zhao.

Ling Han could not help but heave a sigh internally. Though he had met such monsters as the Sword Emperor and the Phoenix Maiden in his last life, at that time, he was already standing at the peak of the world. Thus, he would not feel anything strange about meeting so many exceptional geniuses.

But what about this lifetime?

There first appeared a Rong Huan Xuan who had gained the inheritance of the Thousand Corpse Sect. Originally, he would have been able to reach the level of a monster, but after his body was taken over by Asura Demon Emperor, he would definitely be even more terrifying in the future.

And now here was a Yan Tian Zhao, who was capable of preventing Ling Han from seeing through him, which meant that the former's monstrous level was definitely not low.

He was only in the Gushing Spring Tier, and was currently in the tiny little Rain Country, yet he had already encountered two people who could possibly become logic-defying in the future... then in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, the whole Northern Region, or even in this whole world, how many such monsters would there be?

Weren't there too many geniuses in this lifetime? He had so easily encountered them.

"So it's Little Brother Yan." Ling Han smiled, then looked left and right and asked, "Where's Lady Yan?"

"My mother felt a little unwell and is currently resting at home, she has not come," Yan Tian Zhao said politely, looking completely like a polite, well-mannered young man, making anyone who saw him unable to help but have a favorable impression of him.

Ling Han nodded and said, "Is Little Brother Yan planning to give me your support?"

"Haha, I am just here to attend Big Sister Yu Tong's wedding today and enjoy a cup of wine. I don't know about anything else." Yan Tian Zhao laughed, and stepped to another side. He easily maneuvered, and his behavior was absolutely unlike a young man of his age.

This was seen by some old guys, and they could not help but be astonished. When had such a young man appeared in the Imperial City? Not only was he very mature, but even they were not able to see through to his cultivation level, which was something extremely strange.

"Ling Han!" A harsh voice was heard and they saw a tall man approach them. He said, "What are you doing here?"

Liu Bu Cheng, Liu Yu Tong's Seventh Uncle.

Ling Han was pondering over his attitude as he asked, "It is Yu Tong's wedding. Should I not come here to offer my congratulations?"

Liu Bu Cheng looked meaningfully at Ling Han, and was similarly pondering over Ling Han's words. He frowned slightly and said, "If you have come to enjoy a cup of wine, then we would naturally welcome you, but if you are here to make a fuss, then the Liu Residence is not a place where you can do as you like."

Ling Han smiled and nodded. He could not tell the attitude of the Liu Clan from Liu Bu Cheng's words and tone. He was simply discussing the matter as it was.

'Let's just see, then.'

About all the guests had arrived, and they all took their seats. The majority of the seating was arranged in advance, but there were some exceptions such as Ling Han. However, they naturally had some emergency seats set aside, so he at least did not have to stand at one side.

"Fu Yuan Sheng, Grandmaster Fu, has arrived!" A servant announced, which instantly caused a shock to all those seated. That was one of the two Big Bosses of alchemy of Rain Country, who was merely beneath the Rain Emperor in status.

The Clan Head of the Liu Clan personally came out to receive Fu Yuan Sheng. The two of them walked side by side, smiling and laughing, and seemed to be having an enjoyable conversation.

The Liu Clan marrying one of their daughters actually managed to successfully invite Fu Yuan Sheng; what an honor was that?

But those seated were well aware that Fu Yuan Sheng could not possibly have come for the sake of the Liu Clan; instead, he was here because of Ling Han!

They had long heard that the two Big Bosses of alchemy were

dearly fond of Ling Han, and Fu Yuan Sheng was personally here to attend the wedding today. He was obviously here to support Ling Han fully. How could this be mere fondness? This was practically pampering Ling Han like he was his own son.

"The Third Elder, Jia Bo Yuan, of Spirit Treasures Pavilion, Master Jia has arrived!" Fu Yuan Sheng had just taken his seat when another very important person had arrived.

Jia Bo Yuan's status was not as high as Fu Yuan Sheng's, but he was still someone who was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and in Rain Country, that was an elite level. Usually, it would be difficult even to catch one glimpse of such elites, but they actually came to attend the wedding today.

Liu Yu Tong and Feng Ming did not have such face. Then Jia Bo Yuan either came here because of Ling Han, or because of Feng Yan.

It was unknown whose side he was on.

Right at this moment, Feng Yan finally arrived. He had his hands placed behind his back and casually sat at the most central seat. When his eyes passed over Ling Han, a cold smirk appeared at the corners of his lips and his eyes were filled with killing intent.

The unspoken words here were, I want you to watch as your own woman is married to another man, but what can you do?

Ling Han pretended he had not seen anything. It was not the time yet. There was no need to rush.

"The groom and the bride pay their respects to the Heavens and Earth!" the announcer called out loudly, and they could see a person walking out from either side of the Main Hall. On the left side was a young man who was wearing nuptial robes. He was quite good-looking, but filled with a sloppy, ruffian-like air. On the right side was a young woman in bridal robes. She was wearing a red veil on her head and was being supported by a maid servant on

one side. She was slowly walking over.

Anyone who had eyes could see that the woman in bridal robes had her cultivation sealed, and was being forcefully dragged over by the maid servant beside her.

"Wait!" Ling Han stood up.

'Here it is, here it is, here comes the grand show,' everyone thought in their hearts, and they were all filled with anticipation—after all, what was so nice about attending a wedding anyways? They were not the groom, and the majority of the people here had come here for the confrontation between Ling Han and Feng Yan.

"What do you mean, Ling Han?" one of the clansmen of the Liu Clan asked frostily.

"I do not agree to this wedding!" Ling Han said with a shake of his head.

"Haha, who do you think you are? Does the Liu Clan marrying off one of their daughters still require your approval?" the man said icily. He was in his thirties, and was at the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

Ling Han looked at Liu Bu Cheng, but saw that the latter was completely unperturbed, as if he had no idea what was going on. Instantly, Ling Han understood. There were actually two voices in the Liu Clan. One was in support of marrying Liu Yu Tong off to Feng Ming, while the other was not in agreement.

However, the side that was in disagreement was obviously at a disadvantage. Thus, Liu Yu Tong had still come out to get married, but with the understanding that this would not affect the benefit of the entire Liu Clan, this side was still willing to open the back door for Ling Han.

Therefore, Ling Han had successfully entered into the Liu Residence. Otherwise, he would definitely have had to fight his way in.

Ling Han strode over and said, "Let me repeat, I do not agree to this wedding!"

"Get lost!" the clansman of the Liu Clan shouted, and flew over, delivering a punch towards Ling Han.

The fist approached, and there was a terrifying shock wave surrounding it. As a clansman of the Liu Clan, his battle prowess was more powerful than any other person in the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and had already reached the level of an ordinary person in the eighth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

Ling Han raised his hand and casually threw a punch of his own.

Chapter 256: Entering the Stage

Peng , when Ling Han's fist flew past, there was no visible use of any kind of incredible martial arts technique, yet he just so happened to capture a tiny opening in his opponent's attack. In front of all of their eyes, Ling Han's fist very easily slammed into the chest of that Liu clansman, and the latter flew back from the impact.

This punch was very solid, and that man let out a muffled hump before directly passing out from the blow.

A wave of surprised exclamations rose up all around. One had to understand: that member of the Liu Clan was in the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, whereas Ling Han was only in the first layer of that Tier. An opponent in the late stage of the Gushing Spring Tier should have absolute domination over one in the early stage, so how could he possibly not even be able to withstand a single punch from Ling Han?

The expressions of the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes changed drastically as well. Ling Han was actually so powerful, so much that he could defeat even an opponent in the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier in a single strike. This was not very much weaker when compared to Feng Yan.

Not too long ago, Ling Han's cultivation level was not strong enough to even be considered by them. They had decided to lower themselves to befriend Ling Han simply because they had seen the value of Ling Han's background, but Ling Han's personal ability was not even worth their consideration. But now... this was completely unbelievable.

Meanwhile, the Seventh Imperial Prince smiled. The stronger Ling Han was, the happier he was, because he had helped Ling Han in his "time of need", and this friendship was absolutely genuine.

Some clansmen of the Liu Clan looked glad, while there were

some who looked angered. Obviously, this was because they were in two minds about this situation and hence this gave rise to their completely different attitudes.

Ling Han continued to advance as if he had just struck a minor character that was not worth a second mention.

"Ling Han, you are definitely bold to dare to come to the Liu Clan and commit a crime!" Another middle-aged man jumped out. It was already difficult to find one that could stop Ling Han among the younger generation. This man was about forty years old and was in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. He had been stuck on this cultivation level for a considerable number of years, but it was also because of this that he had solidified and refined his power at this cultivation level.

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "I'm just ordinarily brave. I'm simply here to see a friend."

"Since that's the case, then please conduct yourself with dignity," the Liu clansman said. His name was Liu Zheng, and he was very likely to break through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier. As a result, he was qualified enough to come into contact with the core secrets of the Liu Clan. He knew that there were two voices in the Liu Clan. One was supporting Ling Han, while the other was supporting Feng Yan.

He naturally was in support of Feng Yan, because Feng Yan had promised many benefits that moved the Liu Clan to agree. However, because there were still many clansmen in the Liu Clan who were in support of Ling Han, he did not want to become enemies with Ling Han.

Ling Han said, "If Yu Tong is willingly getting married, I will definitely deliver a valuable gift to congratulate her on her marriage. However, if there's someone forcing her to go through with it, then, as a friend, I will definitely not agree to the matter!"

"Don't you think you are being too much of a busybody?!" Liu

Zheng humphed. "Due to the fact that you are acting to help a friend, if you step back now, I will spare you for your insolence."

"Let Yu Tong speak. I want to personally hear what she has to say." Ling Han continued to advance.

"Insolence!" Liu Zheng was angered now. He was not only a clansman of the Liu Clan, but was also one who was about to step into the central circle of the Liu Clan. Who would dare not heed any words he spoke? However, even though he had spoken such kind words to Ling Han, the latter still insisted on being a pest.

All around them, the spectators were watching. At this moment, naturally no one would run out and play the role of fool.

Ling Han strode forwards and passed by Liu Zheng, paying absolutely no attention to the latter at all.

"How dare you!" Liu Zheng could not take this kind of humiliation. He suddenly turned around, and stretched out a hand to grab Ling Han's shoulder.

Pa , Ling Han did not even turn his head. He simply grabbed onto Liu Zheng's wrist with one hand, and with a toss, shua , Liu Zheng was tossed away. Coincidentally, it just so happened that he landed by Feng Yan's feet.

So awesome, not even Liu Zheng was able to stand up to him. How many Battle Stars did this guy have? But he was obviously merely in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, so how was he so awesome?

Among the crowd, Yan Tian Zhao smiled, but a green light flashed in the depths of his eyes. It transformed into a strange-looking six-pointed star, staring at Ling Han fixatedly as the smile at the corners of his lips increasingly widened.

Feng Yan looked down to look at Liu Zheng who had fallen in front of him before once again raising his head. His face was extremely calm, and there was no visible change in expression.

"Ling Han, you have gone too far!" An old man who looked to be in his fifties walked out, wearing an expression of displeasure.

Liu Ci, Spiritual Ocean Tier!

Don't be mistaken just because his name had a ' Ci ¹ '; this man was not the slightest bit merciful. He had always had the reputation of being a ruthless man.

Now, Ling Han was invincible among all those in the Gushing Spring Tier, so no matter how many Gushing Spring Tier martial artists faced him, they were simply asking to be humiliated. As a result, this Spiritual Ocean Tier elite of the Liu Clan could only shamelessly step out. Even if it was a bit embarrassing to bully the weak when he was so much stronger, but it was at least better than not being able to restrain Ling Han, and allowing him to make a fuss in such a public setting.

"Big Brother Guang, I'll hand this piece of trash over to you!" Ling Han said with a smile.

Guang Yuan stood up, very displeased, and said, "This is a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist, not a piece of trash! Pei, I am indeed very unlucky that I would actually be conned by you!" Though he said such words, he had already jumped out and appeared in front of Liu Ci.

"Guang Yuan?" Liu Ci naturally recognized this Guang Yuan. Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists were the true elites in Rain Country. For example, in such a big place like Da Yuan City, there was only one person in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, which was proof enough of the rarity of such elites.

What more when Guang Yuan was also one of the top ten among loose cultivators. Not even a Great Clan like the Liu Clan would underestimate him.

Guang Yuan laughed and said, "Brother Liu, you don't move, and I won't move, either. All right?"

Liu Ci's face changed drastically. These words seemed to be giving him face, but one had to understand that this was the Liu Clan, and today was the day the Liu Clan was marrying off one of their daughters. What kind of logic was that—you all came to create trouble and he was still not allowed to act?

"Brother Guang Yuan, could you give me some face and not interfere?" Another elite of the Liu Clan stepped out, smiling at Guang Yuan.

"Liu Chuang!" Guang Yuan's face could not help but tense up. This man was the kind of man who could wear a big smile while having evil intentions. He could call you brother and converse enjoyably with you yet immediately become hostile and attack in the next moment. Moreover, he was in the sixth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, which was a layer higher than Guang Yuan's own cultivation level.

"Hehe, I'll come in and join the fun too!" A thin old man stood up. His head was bald and had very small eyes, but his eyes shone with a frighteningly cold light.

"Not Even A Blade of Grass Grows, Lu Zhong Tian!" This time, it was Liu Chuang's turn to become tense.

Lu Zhong Tian was a loose cultivator as well, and he was one generation older than Guang Yuan. The nickname of 'Not Even A Blade of Grass Grows' described his bald head, and also came to be because he was a ruthless man who did not leave his enemies alive.

There had been no news of this man since five years ago, and most people thought that he was already long dead. However, the Liu Clan knew that Lu Zhong Tian had been taken in by the Imperial Family. This man appeared here now, and was obviously on Ling Han's side... would this be the Imperial Family's gesture to make known their attitude?

Even the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes were shocked. They were naturally aware of Liu Zhong Tian's identity. This was

one of the top elites of the Imperial Family. They too have two such men under their respective banners, and Lu Zhong Tian... was the Seventh Imperial Prince's man.

'Have Seventh Younger Brother and Ling Han joined forces?'

However, no matter how they looked at it, there was no way for Ling Han to get the upper hand in the battle today. How could Seventh Younger Brother have made such a mistake? He obviously knew that Ling Han was definitely going to lose, yet still insisted on supporting him? One had to understand, Feng Yan had the Winter Moon Sect behind him, and what party of Rain Country was capable of opposing such a colossal behemoth?

'How weird. Seventh Younger Brother should not be as idiotic as that.'

Chapter 257: Open Confrontation

There were members of the other seven Great Clans who had come to attend the wedding. Although those who were in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, due to their high status, had definitely not personally arrived, there was still a considerable number of martial artists of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, who were naturally qualified to know Lu Zhong Tian's identity, present.

The Imperial Family was interfering? Interesting.

"Hehe, Brother Zhong Tian and I are old partners. Since Brother Zhong Tian wants to interfere, how could I simply sit by and watch?" Another old man stood up smilingly.

"Xie Chang!"

"Is that really Senior Xie?"

"Hiss, Senior Xie is a genius of saber arts, and has been called 'Overlord Saber' years ago. He was in the Hu Yang Academy at the same time as the Rain Emperor, and His Imperial Majesty, the Rain Emperor, has called him the strongest saber wielder that has appeared in these two hundred years!"

"He is the Chief of the Palace Guards, and has been on guard in the Imperial Palace all this time; I never thought that he would be here!"

The spectators all exclaimed in shock. In terms of status, Xie Chang was much higher than Lu Zhong Tian. Not only did the former have a higher cultivation level and a higher battle prowess, he was also the Chief of the Palace Guards, and thus could to a great extent represent the Imperial Family.

The Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes tensed up. Lu Zhong Tian's appearance could only represent the Seventh Imperial Prince's individual support of Ling Han, but it was different in the case of Xie Chang. The Rain Emperor thought highly of Xie Chang,

and as the Chief of the Palace Guards, he was only loyal to the Rain Emperor.

But now Xie Chang was standing on Ling Han's side; wouldn't that mean that the Rain Emperor himself was supporting Ling Han?

When they recalled the fact that they chose to stand by and do nothing, whereas the Seventh Imperial Prince chose to support Ling Han and now it seemed as if the Rain Emperor too had made his choice, how could this not shock them to pallor?

Liu Chuang and Liu Ci's expressions changed drastically. Xie Chang could be considered as a representative of the Rain Emperor. In fact, most of the time, it was Xie Chang who was tasked with going to the various Great Clans to inform them of the Rain Emperor's decrees, and the extent to which he was exposed was even higher than the Rain Emperor.

His appearance definitely did not just represent himself alone.

Though Ling Han did not recognize Xie Chang, after hearing the discussions of the people around him, he was made aware of the latter's identity and could not help but nod internally. This was the Rain Emperor's move to express his displeasure towards the Winter Moon Sect. It was also a warning.

Of course, Rain Country was not qualified to oppose the Winter Moon Sect. However, Feng Yan was only a mere disciple and his behavior was much too arrogant, and had thus attracted the Rain Emperor's displeasure. Xie Chang's appearance was also a knock on the heads of the clansmen of the Liu Clan, reminding them not to forget themselves.

...The enmity between Feng Yan and Ling Han was only limited to the two of them, and it was best that others did not go and join in on the excitement.

There was no way that the Liu Clan could fail to decipher the

Rain Emperor's hidden message. As a result, Liu Ci and Liu Chuang exchanged a look and stepped back respectively. Meanwhile, those clansmen who had intended to step in retook their seats as well.

Xie Chang, Lu Zhong Tian, and Guang Yuan exchanged smiles, and they too returned to their original positions.

This was indeed a great turnabout of events. Previously, Feng Yan and Ling Han had created such a great commotion, and yet there was no sign of movement from the Imperial Family at all. At first, everyone had thought that it would be the same this time, but did not once think that the Rain Emperor would make a move so unexpectedly. This was something that no one had foreseen at all.

"The reason the Imperial Family did not make any move before this was because it had only been a private enmity between Ling Han and Feng Yan, but now that the Liu Clan is also implicated in the matter, the significance is completely different! How could the Rain Emperor allow outsiders to interfere in the internal matters of the nation and shake the foundation of the country!" A man with sharp insight had seen through the present situation.

The others nodded in agreement. The Liu Clan was one of the Eight Great Clans and one of the pillars of support for the Empire. Yet now, they actually publicly sided with Feng Yan and the Winter Moon Sect. Did you still care about the Imperial Family? Or were you planning a rebellion?

This did not mean that the Rain Emperor was taking Ling Han's side, though. Rather, it was because Feng Yan, or better said, the Liu Clan had exceeded their boundaries and crossed the Rain Emperor's bottom line.

There had been two voices in the Liu Clan in the first place, and now that the Rain Emperor had also expressed his opinion on the matter, naturally no one dared to interfere further. It would depend on Feng Yan alone whether he could stop Ling Han or not. Ultimately, this was a private enmity between Ling Han and Feng

Yan after all.

After taking a few more steps, Ling Han had arrived right in front of the nuptial couple.

"Ling Han, if you're here to drink at my wedding, I will welcome you. However, if it's anything else, I have no intention to listen!" Feng Ming spoke. He looked like an obvious hooligan, but the words he said were very high standard, causing the onlookers to be taken aback.

Obviously, these words were taught by Feng Yan... but his following words caused the spectators to frown. "Ling Han, I heard that you have a close relation with Yu Tong. You wouldn't be planning to cuckold me, would you?"

Pu!

Quite a number of people choked. How could he simply ask such a question face-to-face, didn't he think it was humiliating to ask such a thing? Idiot... this guy was indeed an idiot. He was an instrument that Feng Yan had made use of to deliberately embarrass Ling Han with. Anyone would probably turn green with fury after hearing his woman being insulted in such a way, right?

Even the expressions of the clansmen of the Liu Clan turned ugly at this. Liu Yu Tong was the elite genius daughter of the Liu Clan. How could they not feel humiliated after hearing her being insulted so horribly?

"Let us quickly kneel and wed. Such a beautiful woman, I don't want to wait any longer to consummate our marriage!" Feng Ming said lecherously. He had only seen Liu Yu Tong once, and was captivated under her spell ever since. Even in his dreams, he had never dared to dream that he would one day marry such a magnificent beauty.

The guests all shook their heads repeatedly. They did not know what benefits the Liu Clan had gained from this wedding, but after

these words from Feng Ming, the reputation and pride of the Liu Clan was probably ruined completely.

Indeed, all the clansmen of the Liu Clan looked ashen. They had never thought that Feng Ming would actually be this vulgar.

Only Feng Yan was still wearing a smile. He did not look for anyone else except Feng Ming. Wasn't that precisely because of Feng Ming's vulgarity and immorality? The more lowly Feng Ming behaved, the greater the insult would be to Ling Han—see, you are only at this level, to fight over a woman with such a lowly, minor character.

"What are we standing around for, let's kneel! Kneel! Can't you see that I have restrained myself for a very long time?" Feng Ming urged.

Pa!

Ling Han moved, and a fist slammed onto Feng Ming's head. The cracking of bones was heard, and Feng Ming's entire head was completely smacked into his chest. His body staggered for a few times, and fell onto the ground with a bang. It was only now that blood came trickling out.

Fine, the wedding has turned into a funeral.

When they saw such a scene, quite a number of people wanted to clap and cheer. It was because Feng Ming was really too lowly, and had dragged down their status to his level. Now that he was killed with one strike from Ling Han, they suddenly felt the happy feeling one would feel after finally killing an irritating fly.

Only the expressions of the Liu Clan clansmen were ugly. No matter what, Feng Ming was a son-in-law of the Liu Clan, and now he was actually killed by an outsider like Ling Han. Wasn't that practically a smack to their faces?

"Ling Han, you are getting bolder and bolder!" Feng Yan finally stood, his hands placed behind his back, and walked towards Ling

Han.

Feng Ming was dead, and he naturally did not care one bit about it. He had never cared about this cousin of his, and the Feng Clan did not need such a piece of trash in any case. He had only used Feng Ming to humiliate Ling Han, but had never thought that Ling Han would be so decisive and directly kill Feng Ming with a blow.

"So what?" Ling Han countered. There was already no possibility of reconciliation between him and Feng Yan.

"Hehe!" Feng Yan did not become angered. Instead, he said to the clansmen of the Liu Clan, "Why did you all stop? Didn't you hear the groom say just now, quickly kneel and complete the wedding ceremony!"

Yi, wasn't Feng Ming already struck dead, how was he going to continue the wedding then? Hiss, Feng Yan couldn't be thinking of having Liu Yu Tong marry a dead man, right?

Evil! That was too evil!

No wonder Feng Yan was so calm. His purpose was only to humiliate Ling Han, and it was not much better getting married to a dead man than getting married to a piece of trash.

Chapter 258: Decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier Elite

"Feng Ming is already dead, so the matter of this wedding should be dropped!" one of the higher ranking clansmen of the Liu Clan declared. He was one of the objectors and had previously endured for a long time. It was only now that he finally chose to speak up.

If the Liu Clan really married Liu Yu Tong to a dead man, then how would they be able to continue existing in the Imperial City?

Feng Yan smiled calmly and said, "So what if he's dead? When I return, I will find a man from the Feng Clan, and if Miss Liu thinks one is not enough, I would not mind finding a few more."

Once these words were spoken, the clansmen of the Liu Clan all looked furious.

What did you think the women of the Liu Clan were? Prostitutes? And you said you want to find any man, and if one was not enough, you wanted to find a few more!?

Feng Yan was completely uncaring. So what if he had excited the fury of the crowds? Even if a flock of lambs decided to unite, how could they stand against a fierce lion? He had in his hands absolute power, enough that he would not need to bow his head even in front of the Rain Emperor, what more when it was only a mere Liu Clan.

"Heng, the wedding is cancelled, get lost!" the Clan Head of the Liu Clan declared. The aura of a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite rolled out like the waves of a stormy sea, causing all those around them to turn pale.

The fury of an elite was enough to turn the sky and earth upside down!

Yet Feng Yan paid no attention. He merely waved his right hand, and in his hand appeared a roll of silken paper. No one saw where

he had drawn it out from. He continued to say, "This was the decree that my master had gifted to me, who would dare disobey?"

Everyone's expressions changed instantly. After Feng Yan had deliberately let the news spread out, those in the upper social circle were all aware that Feng Yan had joined the ranks of the disciples of a Grand Elder of the Winter Moon Sect. That was an ultimate elite in the Spiritual Infant Tier.

In Rain Country, the Flower Blossoming Tier was synonymous for invincibility, what more when it was a Spiritual Infant Tier—that was practically a living god!

With a decree from an elite in the Spiritual Infant Tier in his possession, Feng Yan could completely wave a chicken feather as a token of authority. Even the current Rain Emperor would have to give some face, right?

The Clan Head of the Liu Clan instantly choked. He was a forceful person by nature, but in front of the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, how could he continue with his forceful ways?

Feng Yan's eyes swept over the crowd, and no one dared to look him in the eye. They all lowered their heads. He could not help but look arrogant. He was a tyrant, but so what? He had the right to be!

Today, he would completely humiliate Ling Han... before killing the latter with his own hands.

"Just because you say it is the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, it is one?" Ling Han shook his head, and said, "I have the token of a Shattering Void Tier elite here myself, would you like to take a look as well?"

"Haha, you're just being stubborn!" Feng Yan laughed loudly, but when he saw some people begin to look a bit doubtful, he said, "Fine then, I'll just let you all take a look at the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite!"

He slowly unrolled the scroll. It was made out of some kind of unknown material. It had the softness of silk, but there were golden threads sewn into it as well, and by itself, it was already a very valuable item.

Weng , a terrifying aura spread out from the decree. It was as if an ultimate elite warrior was about to step out from within, and this caused everyone to shiver, as they felt their limbs freeze and it was if their hearts would jump out of their chests at any second.

This was definitely the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite. Merely the martial intent injected into it spreading out was enough to dominate over an area, and no one could gather the slightest intent to resist.

Pa, pa, pa . One by one, they all knelt. The first were those in the Body Refining Tier, followed by the Element Gathering Tier ones, and then those in the Gushing Spring Tier. As the decree was increasingly unrolled, even the Spiritual Ocean Tier elites were no longer able to withstand it. However, the Spiritual Ocean Tier was Spiritual Ocean Tier after all. They forced themselves to merely sit on the ground, and were spared from being too embarrassing.

Now, there were only a bare few elites of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier who could force themselves to resist. Aside from them, Ling Han and Feng Yan were still standing as well. Meanwhile, Hu Niu was still seated and chowing down on her food. She had listened to Ling Han and obediently did not run around anywhere.

Aside from them, there was one other person who was still sitting fine.

Yan Tian Zhao!

The reason why Feng Yan could remain standing was because he was holding the scroll, and was thus protected by the scroll itself. As for Ling Han, he had been an ultimate elite of the Heaven Tier before, and would naturally have no fear for such dominating might. On the other hand, Hu Niu was too inconceivable.

But when one recalled that shocking Spirit Base in her Dantian that had almost destroyed even Ling Han's consciousness, it was reasonable to think that she would also be able to resist the might at the level of the Spiritual Infant Tier.

But what about Yan Tian Zhao, then? What did he possess that allowed him to resist the martial intent of a powerful elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier?

This guy glanced at Ling Han, and a cold smirk curled up the corners of his lips. He turned to look at Hu Niu, and could not help but frown and look a bit baffled. Obviously, he could not comprehend Hu Niu's calm display.

The decree in Feng Yan's hands was fully unrolled, and though those in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier could still resist, they had lost all ability of movement and could only force themselves to resist through gritted teeth. When he cast his eyes around, it seemed as if everyone was bowing down to Feng Yan, making him stand out like a swan in a flock of chickens as an invincible ruler.

This kind of decree could not last for a very long time. The martial intent within would very quickly disperse, and to sustain such a powerful martial intent, the material used to construct the decree itself was also incomparably valuable. It could only be used once and would thereafter be completely written off. Thus, this was definitely a very wasteful move.

Judging from the fact that Feng Yan was able to obtain such a decree, it was proof enough how very much that Grand Elder of the Winter Moon Sect doted on him.

He should have obtained this when he had returned to the Winter Moon Sect to ask for a Spiritual Pill to heal Feng Luo's arms. Otherwise, he would have had the ability to completely eliminate Ling Han previously, and would have had no need to drag things on until this moment.

Feng Yan laughed loudly, behaving extremely arrogantly.

So what if they were in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier? Even they would only be able to quiver like rats in front of him! So what if they were imperial princes or young masters? They could only kneel in front of him!

"How could this be?!" However, when Feng Yan's swept over Ling Han, he instantly looked astonished. How could this guy still remain standing, and look so completely at ease?

There was absolutely no logic in that!

"How are you still standing?" Feng Yan could not help but ask. This was the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite he was holding here.

"None of your business!" Ling Han gave him the middle finger.

Feng Yan humped, and said, "I have underestimated you a bit; to think that you have actually concealed your true abilities thus far! However, you are definitely going to die today, and no one will be able to save you!"

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "Your bragging is too exaggerated! Come on then, and let's see if your neck is really that hard."

"Insolence!" Feng Yan was furious. The reason why he had drawn out the decree was to force Ling Han to his knees—he would step on the latter's head and let him watch as the wedding proceeded before stamping his head to pulp.

Yet now... Ling Han was actually able to resist the dominating might of the decree.

"Die!" He had lost all patience. The level of Ling Han's monstrous ability gave rise to a sense of dread within him—Ling Han was already at the same level as he in terms of the cultivation tier, and he also had a powerful backer. Now, he could stand up against even a decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite!

It would be best for him to get rid of such an enemy as soon as

possible.

With a single leap, Feng Yan reached Ling Han. His right hand was open and pressed down towards Ling Han, as heavy as if his hand itself was a mountain.

Ling Han raised a fist to parry.

Hong , the two attacks crashed together, and visibly, the Origin Power from their two attacks shattered as if it was glass. Xiu, xiu, xiu, it rebounded in all directions. At the moment, everyone was being suppressed by the decree of the Spiritual Infant Tier elite, and thus unable to defend themselves one bit. When one was scraped by a fragment of Origin Power, they would instantly be slashed.

The two young men exchanged positions, and both looked serious. Their opponent was quite powerful.

Feng Yan withdrew the decree, and with a shake of his right hand, a long saber appeared in his hand.

Spatial Ring.

This guy was really quite arrogant. After obtaining such a treasure, he actually dared to show such a precious item in public; was he not afraid that he would attract the envy of others?

Ling Han drew his sword. However, it was not the Demon Birth Sword. How could he so easily show off a Level Ten Spiritual Tool?

Chapter 259: Unbroken Sword Intent

Thankfully, Feng Yan's saber was merely a mortal item. Otherwise, even if it was merely a Level One Spiritual Tool, there would be no need for the engraving of any kind of martial intent, as the degree of sharpness alone would be enough to break Ling Han's sword in half.

"Great Sun Mad Saber, break into pieces and exterminate!" Feng Yan gave a loud shout, advancing with saber in hand. The saber flashed, creating ripples of power. The power behind these ripples was extremely terrifying.

"What a powerful saber intent!" Xie Chang exclaimed in astonishment. By now, the decree of the Spiritual Infant Tier elite had already been withdrawn, so everyone had naturally gotten back onto their feet and all turned to watch this battle between two young geniuses.

However, there were some who had turned to look at Hu Niu and Yan Tian Zhao. This was because these two had actually managed to resist the might of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite that had spread out from the decree, which was something that was both shocking and unanticipated.

Xie Chang was named as Overlord Saber, which clearly showed that his ability in the field of saber arts was definitely in the upper ranks in Rain Country. And even he would exclaim in astonishment, showing that Feng Yan's saber technique was indeed extraordinary.

"En!" Quite a lot nodded their heads in agreement. Whether they liked Feng Yan was a different matter, but if they were merely looking at his merits, Feng Yan's ability in saber arts was indeed extraordinary. Otherwise, he would not have easily defeated the Third Imperial Prince, Zhao Huan, and Can Ye.

Ling Han was also slightly surprised, the might behind this saber

technique... had reached the level of a Black Grade high level martial arts technique.

The Feng Clan was of course unable to possess a Black Grade martial arts technique. In the whole Rain Country, only the Imperial Family possessed a Black Grade high level martial arts technique, and it was naturally impossible for Feng Yan to obtain such a secret technique from the Imperial Family. Thus, he must have been taught when he had gone to the Winter Moon Sect.

Not bad, not bad. No wonder he had obtained the favor of an elite of Spiritual Infant Tier. Feng Yan should only have practiced this saber art for more than a month, yet he was already quite well practiced with this saber technique. He had at least grasped about twenty to thirty percent of the true essence of this technique, which showed how uncommon his talent in martial arts was.

However, it was only uncommon.

With a whistle, Ling Han waved his sword, and the Four Seasons Sword Technique circulated, heading towards Feng Yan.

This sword technique was something he had taught to Liu Yu Tong. It was also a martial arts technique he had used in his last life. There was no need for him to familiarize himself with it at all. With a thought, he naturally could circulate it smoothly, and create a hazy drizzle as if it was a spring shower.

These little droplets of rain were formed from Ling Han's Origin Power. As long as they were attached to one's body, the Origin Power would enter inside and create a very terrifying level of destruction.

"What a great sword technique!" When they saw Ling Han's sword technique, quite a number of people exclaimed in praise.

In the field of martial arts, the saber and the sword were the two most commonly used weapons. Feng Yan's saber technique had drawn exclamations of shock from the saber wielders, whereas

Ling Han's sword technique had obtained the praise from the swordsmen.

"This young man's sword intent is definitely not weaker than Feng Yan's!"

"That's right. Honestly, if I suppress my cultivation level to the level of the Gushing Spring Tier, even I may not be able to use such a powerful sword technique."

"That's odd. Why do I feel as if this strike is not fully expressed, and there is some reservation?"

"Yi, you have that feeling too?"

With a long whistle, Feng Yan had advanced with his saber in hand.

Ting!

A crisp sound was heard, creating a sound wave that spread out in all directions. Those martial artists below the Gushing Spring Tier began to bleed from their ears, noses, and eyes, and looked very terrible. There was also a large number of people who were in the Gushing Spring Tier that could not help but cover their ears.

Ling Han and Feng Yan were both forced back, and this exchange of blows gave them both an equal share of the limelight. It was difficult to decide who was stronger.

"I have underestimated you a bit!" Feng Yan humphed icily. With a wave of his long saber, he created a bitingly cold light that raged like a waterfall. "The saber rolls 30,000 feet, and slashes all enemies on this world!"

Xie Chang's hand trembled, and he could not help but touch the hilt of his own saber, fighting spirit flickering in his eyes.

Such a saber intent really gave him an itch, making him have the urge to battle such a powerful saber intent.

"That strike just now was actually not his full power?"

"Gods, he's already so powerful, and he can actually still increase his power, he's really too terrifying!"

"This time, Ling Han would only be able retreat in the face of his superior strength!"

In the midst of the exclamations of surprise from their audience, Ling Han waved his sword and once more the spring rain appeared. However, it was only for an instant before the sword intent changed abruptly. From the gentle spring rain, it transformed into the shocking thunder of summer. Hong long long , the sound of thunder was endless, almost deafening their ears!

"What!?" Everyone was flabbergasted.

"A series of sword techniques?"

"How could this be? The first strike has not been fully displayed, yet he was able to make another strike?"

"Additionally, the switching of his sword intent is so natural that it gives one the feeling of spring moving into summer, which abides by the rules of nature."

"No wonder I felt that the strike just now was not fully expressed. So it seems as if the sword intent is unbroken, and has not been fully expended at all!"

"This is really too scary, how did this guy cultivate such a technique?"

But was that the end of it?

Ling Han's sword intent once again changed. An autumn breeze began to blow. It was a bit chilly and filled with killing intent. It changed once again, and became the biting cold of winter. Endless white snow flew all around, and they could not help but hug themselves, feeling cold.

"One sword technique has four sword intents!"

"Gods, what a monster! This is too much of a monster! How is

this possible!"

Everyone was dumbfounded. This had completely exceeded their level of understanding. Such a sword technique should not have appeared on this mortal plane at all.

Ling Han smiled calmly. When he combined the Four Seasons Sword Technique into one, its might was close to the level of an Earth Grade martial arts technique. If it was not for the fact that he had a sliver of the divine sense of a Heaven Tier elite, he would not have been able to so smoothly use such a sword technique. And once there was a lapse, there would be a break in the four seasons, and the power behind the combined sword technique would be even lower than simply using one single sword technique.

Spring Rain, Summer Thunder, Autumn Wind, and Winter Snow, Ling Han controlled these four sword intents and boldly advanced towards Feng Yan in attack.

Feng Yan's expression could not help but change drastically. If Ling Han had only used a single season sword technique, he would be completely unafraid, and could even use the forcefulness of his saber to suppress Ling Han. But now that the Four Seasons Sword Technique was combined into one, it produced the effect of one plus one was larger than two.

This was a sword array. It was equivalent to having four martial artists join forces against him. No matter how powerful he was, how could he be able to stand against four Ling Han at the same time?

He roared furiously, and his saber lowered and stabbed into the ground. His right foot suddenly stamped onto the ground, and he forced his body to fly back in retreat.

Hong , the images of the swords surged, yet they missed their target. Only the tables and chairs nearby were carved into pieces that flew into the air.

Hu, hu, hu . Feng Yan kept panting harshly. Just now, he had forcibly withdrawn his attack, which was equivalent to attacking himself. Thus, he was now feeling horrible. He hurriedly swallowed a medicinal pill, his eyes fixated on Ling Han and a powerful dread flashing in them.

He could tell that one strike from Ling Han contained four Sword Techniques, and four different sword intents. If it was only one, he was not afraid, but when the Four Seasons joined forces, the might was too powerful. Even he did not dare to face such an attack head on.

Damn! Damn!

At first, he could easily crush Ling Han with a single lift of his hand. However, he had not yet obtained the approval of the Winter Moon Sect at the time, so he had been cautious and planned to kill Ling Han three months later instead of doing so immediately.

He had never thought that his mistake would have caused his younger brother to die by Ling Han's hand, and the latter had furthermore even obtained the ability to stand against him as an equal!

This brat had really developed too fast, hadn't he?

Get rid of him, he definitely had to get rid of him!

Feng Yan once again drew out the decree and unrolled it. The powerful suppression was again released, and pa, pa, pa , everyone was compelled to kneel or sit on the ground, all forced into a lower position.

"Die!" Feng Yan used the decree like it was a whip, and whipped it towards Ling Han. There were characters flashing on its surface, and it was for some reason eerie.

Chapter 260: Compel

Ling Han did not fear the dominating might of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, but if he was struck by the martial intent of one, that would be like an egg being smashed onto a rock. His only fate would be being shattered into pieces.

Thus, when the decree flew towards him, he could only choose to retreat.

"Run! Run! Let's see where you can run to!" Feng Yan smirked frostily and chased after him, waving the decree like a whip. When he whipped the decree, the might of a Spiritual Infant Tier became more and more terrifying. Even those elites in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier were sweating bullets, and the others, needless to say, were all paralyzed like pools of sludge.

Ling Han's figure raced rapidly as he simultaneously thought of a plan.

If he drew out the Demon Birth Sword, even if he wasn't able to activate the martial intent within it, merely the material used to forge a Level Ten Spiritual Tool would be enough to defend against the martial intent of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite. However, the problem was, if he actually revealed it in public, how much attention would he attract?

If he was merely a single person, then it was fine. If worse came to worst, he could always choose to flee and relocate to a different place.

However, his roots were now in Rain Country, in Da Yuan City, in Gray Cloud Town. He could leave, but what about Ling Dong Xing and his other relatives? The Ling Clan had already experienced one catastrophe, so how could Ling Han bear to draw another deadly disaster onto the Ling Clan, especially when it was because of him?

No, he definitely could not use the Demon Birth Sword!

"Hahahaha, in front of the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, how long do you intend to keep running?" Feng Yan laughed loudly. His master had given him this decree, so he could be unafraid even in front of the Rain Emperor himself, what more when this was merely a martial artist of the Gushing Spring Tier he was facing now.

"Surrender yourself to death obediently, and don't think that you will be able to escape!"

Ling Han used "Shadow Wind Motion". This, too, was a Black Grade high level martial arts technique. Since he had already broken through to the Gushing Spring Tier, the Yellow Grade martial arts techniques he had used previously could of course be discarded, and they were all exchanged for the higher level Black Grade martial arts techniques.

Feng Yan could not catch up.

He was taught a Black Grade high level saber technique, and he had not fully learnt it in over a month's time, so where would he have the time to learn other martial arts techniques? Ling Han was different. He had used all these techniques in his last life, but even if he hadn't, with the comprehension ability of someone who used to be in the Heaven Tier, how could learning them be difficult for him?

"Don't run!" Feng Yan was in a towering rage, but he could do nothing against Ling Han. The later was as nimble as an eel and unbelievably slippery, so he couldn't hit him at all.

Ling Han merely smiled calmly and said, "Once the decree is unrolled, the martial intent within would begin to disperse. You using it in such a way is only hastening the rate of its dispersal, so how much longer would it last?"

When one was talking about the understanding of the secrets of

martial arts, who would understand more than he who had once been in the Heaven Tier?

"How did you know?" Feng Yan was indeed greatly shocked. His master had told him so before. A decree was not a Spiritual Tool, and was only slightly more durable than a Spiritual Talisman, but it was still very limited in use.

"You don't have to bother yourself with that!" Ling Han's sword waved and shot out a few flashes of Sword Qi. It was not his style to merely defend without attacking.

Feng Yan did not use his saber. With a wave of the decree, the martial intent contained within was enough to shatter the Sword Qi. However, he became more and more irritable. If things went on this way, he would really expend all the martial intent contained in the decree until it was merely a piece of scrap paper.

In the first place, he was a haughty person, and instantly, a violent light shone in his eyes. He turned back, and pa , the decree smacked onto a man's head. The martial intent spread out, and that man's head instantly exploded.

Unfortunately, that man was under the suppression of the might of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, and so could only shiver as he lay on the ground. There was no way for him to dodge at all, so he could merely watch as misfortune fell on his head.

"Feng Yan!" everyone roared in fury. What was this guy planning to do?

"Ling Han, if you dare to dodge again, I will kill all the people here!" Feng Yan declared coldly, his killing intent boiling.

When these words were heard, everyone was both shocked and furious. Those who had arrived to attend the wedding today were all people in the upper social circles of the Imperial City, and some were even elites of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier! Yet Feng Yan actually dared to use their lives to threaten Ling Han, this was

practically crazy!

"Feng Yan, you've gone too far!" Many began to roar in fury.

"This is between you and Ling Han. What do we have to do with it?"

"Don't make us look down on you!"

Feng Yan merely pretended as if he had not heard anything, and said coldly, "You're all just a group of trash. So what if I kill all of you? Who would dare do anything against me? If I use all my effort, it is not that I am unable to kill Ling Han, but that would force me to reveal my trump card, and that is not something I want to happen! Since I can use a faster way to kill him, what need is there for me to expend the extra effort?"

Everyone was even more furious, and all began to curse and shout. However, there was one thing that Feng Yan was right about. He could do as he liked, kill anyone he liked, but they would not dare to do anything to him because Feng Yan was a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect!

Who dared to make a move against a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect? The most they could do would be to expel him from Rain Country.

"Ling Han, aren't you going to obediently surrender to your death? Or do you want so many people to die with you?" Feng Yan laughed loudly, looking very arrogant. It was as if he was a cat that was toying with a mouse. With a wave of the decree, another dozen people was smacked into pieces.

This guy indeed had a trump card. For example, he had not used the Mirror Light Body. As a result, Ling Han was even more sure that this kind of special constitution had to be activated consciously. A special constitution that had to be consciously activated would expend energy, Origin Power, or spiritual energy, and there was a limit to all of these. It was impossible to keep it

going at all times.

On the other hand, Ling Han's Body of Rock Cliff was a passive skill. He did not need to activate it for it to be effective. However, even if he actively circulated it, he would not be able to increase the firmness of his physical body.

Additionally, Ling Han believed that Feng Yan must have had some kind of secret. Otherwise, he would not have battled the Eldest Imperial Prince to a draw, and would not have been picked to become the disciple of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite.

"Don't make me look lightly on you!" Ling Han said. He would of course not wait quietly to be killed.

"Look lightly?" Feng Yan laughed loudly, and said haughtily, "What right do you have to look lightly on me? Do you know that I... hehe, I should keep this secret for the moment. You want to die in vigorous battle? Impossible! I want you to die in a stupid and cowardly way!"

His thoughts turned, and he said, "Everyone, I can spare you, but you have to do something for me, and that is to apprehend Ling Han! I will give you the time of three breaths, and if by that time, Ling Han is still not kneeling before me, then I can only use this decree and kill all of you!"

So evil!

"Do not doubt my determination. Don't you all forget who I am!" he said frostily.

Their hearts trembled. Feng Yan was not an ordinary disciple of the Winter Moon Sect, but the personal disciple of a Grand Elder. Previously, he dared to publicly oppose the Eldest Imperial Prince, and now, even dared to brazenly commit murder without any kind of reservations at all.

Feng Yan could do as he liked, but who could really do anything against him?

With such thoughts, Feng Yan's threat was like a knife held at their necks, making them tremble with uncontrollable fear.

Ling Han did not speak. He was merely trying to find an opening.

"I have given you all a chance, and if you want to live, you have to take hold of it firmly!" Feng Yan said with a smile as he withdrew the decree and toyed with everyone as if they were all in the palm of his hand. He was extremely pleased with this feeling of being superior to everyone else.

It was at this moment that Ling Han shot out like an arrow and instantly appeared in front of Feng Yan. Taking advantage of the opening created when Feng Yan withdrew the decree, he moved as quick as lightning, and his sword smacked onto Feng Yan's wrist.

Pa , the decree instantly flew out of his grasp.

Chapter 261: Battle of Backgrounds

Shua , the decree streaked through the air, and there was a golden light bubbling forth.

Both Ling Han and Feng Yan leaped through the air, chasing after the decree. Whoever was able to gain possession of the decree now would practically be getting hold of the life-and-death power in this situation.

Peng, peng, peng, peng. The two men entered into an endless exchange of moves in mid air, but Ling Han was still at a slight advantage and managed to get the upper hand.

Ling Han stretched out a hand, and just when his fingertips were about to touch the decree, he suddenly paused. Then he waved out his left hand, and the Blood Sucking Origin Gold transformed into a golden thread that circled around the decree. Another toss, and he had cast off the decree far away from him.

The decree floated calmly downwards. A man who had been standing at the side grew covetous, and snatched it over in a single move. Who knew that just as his hand had just grabbed hold of it, his whole arm was reduced to a lump of bloody flesh with a pa, instantly causing the man to shriek in agony.

"Heng!" Feng Yan stopped moving and said coldly, "You are quite cautious!"

Previously, he had indeed been caught off guard by Ling Han, but in the exchange of blows and fighting over to grab the decree that followed afterwards, it was not that he had been losing, but rather that he had held back some of his ability deliberately. He wanted to let Ling Han take hold of the decree and use that opportunity to crush Ling Han's arm. He had not thought that Ling Han would be so cautious, however.

It was not that Ling Han was especially cautious. Instead, as

someone who used to be an ultimate elite of the Heaven Tier, how could he be unaware of the taboos of a decree? He pretended that he was ignorant, made use of Feng Yan's own intent to harm others, and led the latter to actually discard the decree on his own.

Now that Feng Yan had lost the decree as a threat, the others would naturally not have to obey his commands.

In a one against one battle, Ling Han was unafraid.

"Feng Yan!" Everyone was fuming in rage. A lowly martial artist from a humble background actually dared to threaten their lives; this was enough to make them all want nothing more but to devour him alive.

"Don't be defiant!" Feng Yan exclaimed arrogantly, his eyes sweeping over his surroundings. "You pieces of trash only know how to express your anger verbally, but do any of you actually dare to make a move against me?"

"You!" Quite a number of people roared loudly with reddened eyes. The relatives of those people Feng Yan had killed previously were especially furious, their bodies trembling with restrained anger. However, the Winter Moon Sect was like a colossal behemoth that was pressing down on their heads. Who would dare make a move against Feng Yan when they were perfectly aware that he was a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect?

"Don't go 'you, you', pieces of trash!" Feng Yan smirked icily, and no longer bothered with the rest. He turned to Ling Han and said, "Though I am definitely going to kill you, but I have to admit that you are at least much braver than these pieces of trash since you actually dare to stand against me."

Ling Han's sword tremored, and he said, "You are speaking too much nonsense. You had best wash your neck clean and prepare for death!"

"You really dare to kill me?" Feng Yan laughed, "Are you not

afraid of the Winter Moon Sect?"

"So what about it?" Ling Han asked calmly. He was indeed not taking the Winter Moon Sect to heart. No matter how much Feng Yan scrambled his brains, he could not possibly know that Ling Han used to be an ultimate elite of the Heaven Tier. Though his cultivation level had dropped, but how could his pride and scope drop as well?

In the future, he would definitely be capable of once again returning to the Heaven Tier, and this would not take too much time. What more when there was still an Ao Feng in the Winter Moon Sect, someone that Ling Han was definitely going to eliminate in the future? He was destined to face the Winter Moon Sect in an open confrontation.

In comparison, Feng Yan could only be considered a minor character.

"Hahahaha, what courage. Only killing such a man would be fulfilling!" Feng Yan laughed loudly, pointed at Ling Han and said, "If it was not for the fact that you killed my younger brother, I really would not have wanted to kill you off so soon."

"Dream on!" Ling Han attacked, his sword waving; instantly, six flashes of Sword Qi danced together.

"Do you think I'm afraid of you?" Feng Yan shouted, and a faint silvery light flickered from his body. He waved his long saber in a slash that possessed the aggressive air of advancing forwards without any sign of retreat.

"What a good saber!" Xie Chang could not help but call out.

"You're still praising this brat?" Lu Zhong Tian rolled his eyes. This guy had almost killed them all off just moments ago.

"That's quite another matter. This brat's saber arts is indeed not bad; if it wasn't for... ai, even I have a bit of desire of take him as my disciple." Xie Chang sighed with a shake of his head, looking

like he felt it was really quite a pity.

Ting, ting, ting, ting. Ling Han and Feng Yan endlessly exchanged blows, and Saber Qi and Sword Qi danced vigorously through the air.

At this point, Feng Yan had activated the Mirror Light Body, and was able to rebound about twenty percent of Ling Han's attacks. This was extremely astonishing, as not only was he able to reduce twenty percent of Ling Han's attack power, he was also able to reflect this attack power back onto Ling Han and strengthen his own attacks in the process.

In the process of receiving attacks, Feng Yan's body was also flickering with silvery light, like it was a mirror that was about to shatter.

Obviously, there was a limit to the attack power he could reflect. As long as this limit was exceeded, then he would not be able to reflect the attack, and would be directly shattered instead.

Ling Han's Body of Rock Cliff also displayed its effects. He could more or less withstand the twenty percent of attack power that was reflected back onto him and only feel the slight slightest bit of discomfort. However, he only needed to circulate the Indestructible Heaven Scroll and this uncomfortable feeling would disappear without a trace.

The two fighters' right hands wielded their respective weapons, while their left hands continued a barrage of punches and palm strikes. Even their legs would occasionally kick out at their opponent, creating one after another powerful attacks, with an astonishing might behind each attack.

Those people around them were dumbfounded by this display. Who in the younger generation would still be capable of standing against these two?

Too powerful!

Feng Yan was a bit hesitant. This was not his full power, but if he wanted to kill Ling Han, then he would have to reveal some of his more powerful trump cards. Was it worth exposing his trump cards just for one Ling Han?

Moreover, Ling Han should also have trump cards that he had not revealed yet. At least, he had not used that sword technique that contained a series of four sword intents, so Feng Yan could not help but keep a few cards up his sleeve as security.

"I'm not late, am I?" At this moment, a hearty laughter was heard, and a tall old man strode over. With every step, it seemed as if there was a dazzling light under his feet, and a purple-colored light actually bloomed under his steps, like the blooming of a flower.

This was martial intent, something that could only be produced by someone who was at least in the Spiritual Ocean Tier—this man had already reached the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

Who was he speaking to?

Feng Yan laughed heartily, and said, "Attendant Qiu, you're just in time!"

"Hehe, allow me to introduce myself. I am Qiu Ku, a little attendant of the Winter Moon Sect," the old man said, all smiles, presenting an amiable attitude.

Yet everyone's hearts almost stopped at that; an attendant of the Winter Moon Sect!

If Feng Yan could only be considered a mere disciple, then Qiu Ku could to a great extent represent the will of the Winter Moon Sect.

"Attendant Qiu, help me apprehend this brat!" Feng Yan said.

"All right!" Qiu Ku nodded his head without hesitation. He did not put on any airs even though Feng Yan was much weaker than him in term of cultivation level. This was naturally because he was giving face to that powerful elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier

standing behind Feng Yan.

"You dare!" Fu Yuan Sheng instantly stepped out.

Qiu Ku's eyes swept over and slightly narrowed as he said, "A Black Grade high level alchemist?"

"Just let the young people deal with their own matters, where we, the older people, just stand by at one side," Fu Yuan Sheng said calmly, yet there was a forcefulness to his tone that would accept no rejection.

As a member of the Alchemists' Association, he was not afraid of the Winter Moon Sect.

Qiu Ku looked hesitant. Firstly, he had no desire to offend a high level alchemist, and secondly, Fu Yuan Sheng was also in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so even if he made a move, it was not certain that he would be able to kill Ling Han.

Feng Yan smirked coldly, and said, "Clan Head Liu, this man has killed a son-in-law of the Liu Clan. Could it be that the Liu Clan wants to simply watch as he goes unpunished? I will not make things difficult for you either. As long as you help detain Master Fu, the benefits that I have promised to the Liu Clan would not be reduced in any way!"

Chapter 262: Domineering Rain Emperor

There were some who were aware that the reason the Liu Clan had agreed to have Liu Yu Tong marry Feng Ming must have been because Feng Yan had promised them some kind of benefits, but how could such a deal that had been agreed upon so privately be announced right in front of so many people?

Clan Head Liu's face unconsciously darkened, but Feng Yan was completely unrestrained. Moreover, he had a terrifying background behind him, so what could he do even if he was very displeased? How could he really hang Feng Yan up and give him a thrashing?

When he remembered the benefits that the Liu Clan would be able to gain, Clan Head Liu merely hesitated for a while and then stood up, then said to Fu Yuan Sheng, "Grandmaster Fu, give me some face, and please do not interfere, all right?"

Fu Yuan Sheng's expression changed drastically. He asked, "If I make a move, are you intending to stop me?"

"That's right!" Clan Head Liu forced out through gritted teeth.

"Liu Fei Peng, I am not very displeased, and in the future, perhaps the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion will not be selling one single medicinal pill to the Liu Clan. Are you sure that you want to continue to anger me?" Fu Yuan Sheng said threateningly.

Clan Head Liu's hands trembled slightly, obviously embroiled in an inner struggle. However, he immediately replied, "Grandmaster Fu, please do not interfere!"

He was determined to side with Feng Yan.

Fu Yuan Sheng was furious. He really did not know what kind of benefits Feng Yan had promised to the Liu Clan that not only made them agree to deliver a genius member of their clan and even ruin their relations with the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. One had to

understand that even though the Liu Clan has developed their own alchemists, it was impossible that they would be able to supply enough alchemical pills to everyone. Thus, they would still have to visit the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion to replenish their supplies of alchemical pills.

He humped and said, "Then let me come and experience your battle prowess!"

Yet Clan Head Liu did not attack. As long as Fu Yuan Sheng did not move, he was definitely not going to attack. After all, the former was also in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and if they really came to blows, they would be creating too much destruction, and this was still the Liu Residence.

"Attendant Qiu, there is no one capable of stopping you now!" Feng Yan declared with a smile, his expression extremely arrogant and wild.

Qiu Ku laughed loudly, and strode towards Ling Han.

There were in total four elites of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier here at the moment, and two of them were obviously on Feng Yan's side. Only one was supporting Ling Han, while the remaining one, Jia Bo Yun, seemed to have become a blind and deaf person and continued to sit without making any movement, looking completely at ease.

Obviously, the Spirit Treasures Pavilion was willing to cheer Ling Han on, but was definitely not going to offend the Winter Moon Sect for his sake.

What was Ling Han going to do?

Zhu Wu Jiu, the Seventh Imperial Prince, and the others were all frowning, whereas the Eldest and the Third Imperial Prince smirked coldly. Who asked Ling Han to ignore their advice and insist on causing his own destruction, like an egg striking a rock? He deserved whatever he got!

Ling Han sighed. Now that things had turned out this way, he could only choose to reveal his status as a Black Grade high level alchemist.

"Heng! You actually dare to be insolent in my territory!" It was at this moment that a voice filled with ultimate might was heard, causing the hearts of all the people gathered here to tremble. They all felt a reverence and fear that seemed to originate from the depths of their souls.

"Your, Your Imperial Majesty!" Clan Head Liu exclaimed in shock. This voice was precisely the voice of the current emperor of Rain Country!

"Rain Emperor!" Qiu Ku could not help but tense up. Though the Rain Emperor was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier as well, he was also the ruler of a nation. In terms of imposing manner, he was able to suppress all others in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Not even he dared to underestimate the Rain Emperor.

"This is my Rain Country, and not the Winter Moon Sect!" The Rain Emperor's voice was once again heard, loud and mighty as thunder. "I can turn a blind eye to the enmity of the younger generation, but if the older generation intends to interfere, I will kill anyone I see doing that!"

So domineering. Qiu Ku was a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite of the Winter Moon Sect, yet the Rain Emperor would still rebuke him in such a way. "I will kill anyone I see doing that", how could the words of a ruler be mere words?

The young people in the area were all incredibly excited. This was the Rain Emperor, and he was indeed a powerful ruler. Even faced with a powerful elite of the Winter Moon Sect, he did not cower in the slightest. This made them all feel as if their blood was boiling in their veins, making them feel the urge to have a grand battle.

Meanwhile, the expressions of the Eldest and the Third Imperial

Prince were undergoing a massive change. They had not thought that the Rain Emperor himself would actually support Ling Han, and when they thought of their own positions... that was completely opposed to the Rain Emperor's stand! How were they going to inherit the throne this way?

Only the Seventh Imperial Prince was wearing an excited grin. He had gambled on the right choice. The Rain Emperor was a proud man, so how could he allow an outsider to undermine his authority on his own territory?

"Rain Emperor, your boasts are a bit too exaggerated. If an ultimate elite of the Flower Blossoming Tier came from my sect, would you still dare to say such a thing?" Qiu Ku asked coldly. The Winter Moon Sect was naturally more powerful than Rain Country, and he himself was at the same cultivation level as the Rain Emperor, so how could he be afraid of the latter?

"In the time of three breaths, get lost immediately. Otherwise, I will smack you right out of my country!" The voice of the Rain Emperor was once again heard. His voice was cold and forceful.

"Haha, then I would really like to experience that!" Qiu Ku looked towards Ling Han, his killing intent flaring. They were both in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Moreover, he was also an attendant of the Winter Moon Sect, so how could he be scared off simply by the Rain Emperor's words?

He was still a little anxious, because he had not yet figured out where the Rain Emperor was at this moment. The voice rumbled as if it was coming from all directions, so he had no way to identify where it really came from.

One breath!

Everyone was counting down in their hearts, whereas Qiu Ku began to walk towards Ling Han.

Two breaths!

Qiu Ku was not walking particularly quickly. He had completely pushed his alertness and awareness to their limits. He had long heard that the Rain Emperor was a genius of martial arts and possessed a terrifying battle prowess, so how could he dare to be careless?

Three breaths!

Qiu Ku moved, his right hand forming into a gigantic, purple-colored hand. There were intricate patterns flickering with light on his palm, as if they were able to shatter the earth.

"Heng!" The Rain Emperor's voice was once again heard. Peng , the roof was pierced through, and they could only see a gigantic golden fist descend down from the skies, crashing ruthlessly towards Qiu Ku.

"Son of Heaven Fist Technique!" All three Imperial Princes gasped at the same time. No matter what kind of weapons they used personally, they had all naturally learnt the Son of Heaven Fist Technique. However, when they saw this golden fist, they only felt endless shock.

When the son of heaven's fist attacked, the whole world would be flattened!

It was irresistible and there was no counter to it. With this one fist, everyone merely felt as if they were as insignificant as ants. No matter what move they made to resist, it would only be like a mantis trying to stop a chariot, an impossible feat, and their only fate would be to be completely crushed by the imperial might.

Qiu Ku's expression changed drastically due to shock, and he hurriedly delivered his own attack upwards, creating a purple-colored nebula that went to receive that golden fist.

Hong!

Indeed, it was like a mantis attempting to stop a chariot in its tracks. With the crushing power of the golden fist, the nebula was

instantly shattered into smithereens. The golden fist landed, hong , and an irresistible force gushed out. Peng, peng, peng, peng , every single person in the Main Hall was forced backwards as if they were mere stalks of straw.

Dust and smoke filled the air, and they could only see that the whole Main Hall was completely flattened into a plain, and the only person who had not been flung out of the Main Hall was Qiu Ku.

This guy... was he dead or alive?

After the dust and smoke had dispersed a little, they could see that Qiu Ku was lying on the ground in the shape of the Chinese character for ' big ¹' , and the slightly rising and falling of his chest obviously meant that he was still alive.

Everyone inhaled sharply in shock. Qiu Ku was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, yet the Rain Emperor was able to crush him like a wretch without even once showing his face. Wasn't the Rain Emperor too powerful already? Was this really the power that someone in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier should have?

Even one as arrogant as Feng Yan had his mouth tightly closed. In front of absolute power, everyone could only tremble in fear.

"Ling Han, Feng Yan, I shall allow the two of you to settle between yourselves the private enmity between you two, but if anyone else wants to interfere, this man will be their example!" The Rain Emperor's voice was once again heard, a vibrating rumble. Even if there were three others in Spiritual Pedestal Tier present, they were still unable to identify where this voice was coming from.

"Ling Han, come see me at the Imperial Palace!"

Chapter 263: Audience with the Emperor

From start to finish, the Rain Emperor did not even show his face, yet his domineering attitude was enrooted deep into everyone's hearts. Even such powerful elites like Fu Yuan Sheng and the Clan Head of the Liu Clan felt a deep-set reverence and did not have the slightest intention of resistance.

This was a real ruler. Once the order was given, it would be strictly enforced. All of them were his subjects under his imperial graciousness.

Ling Han's eyes were turned towards the far-off Imperial Palace, however, as his divine sense had managed to identify that the Rain Emperor's voice had actually originated from there.

If anyone else found out, they would definitely grab their heads and exclaim in shock, how could this be possible?

There was a distance of at least ten miles, so how could sound be transmitted so quickly and so clearly here? Moreover, there was still a punch from the Son of Heaven Fist Technique that actually punched an elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier unconscious!

This was practically like a myth; that was too powerful, wasn't it?

'Spiritual Pedestal Tier would definitely not have such power!' Ling Han mused internally. 'Could it be that the Rain Emperor has already broken through to the Flower Blossoming Tier?' Though there was only one tier between the Spiritual Pedestal Tier and the Flower Blossoming Tier, the taking of this step was like the gulf between heaven and earth. The Spiritual Pedestal Tier was still considered mortal, whereas the Flower Blossoming Tier would be stepping into the ranks of gods!

Only one in the Flower Blossoming Tier would be able to transmit sound over ten miles as if they were right on the scene.

With a single thought, his fist intent had reached its target, and easily suppressed an opponent of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

"That's not right!" Ling Han frowned slightly. He had somewhat captured a sliver of the Rain Emperor's divine sense, and it should not have reached the Flower Blossoming Tier yet, so this was indeed very strange.

"Ling Han, I shall allow you to continue living for ten days. After ten days, I will personally take your life!" Feng Yan laughed coldly and grabbed Qiu Ku in a single move. He leaped up, and very quickly disappeared from sight.

No one dared to stop him, even if he had killed so many just moments ago.

"Ling Han..." The Seventh Imperial Prince approached, his face filled with delight. He had made the right bet on the Rain Emperor's personality. This ruler of a nation was a domineering man, so how could he be able to tolerate the Winter Moon Sect undermining of his authority on his own territory? He would definitely return a powerful counter-attack.

However, even he had not foreseen that the Rain Emperor's attitude would be as forceful as this, so much that he had directly thrashed Qiu Ku unconscious.

No matter what, he had taken the right step, so he would have definitely gained a considerable favor of the Rain Emperor, so he was one step closer to the imperial throne.

"My Imperial Father summoned you, so you had better make a move on," he said, all smiles. The Rain Emperor very rarely deigned to see anyone on an one-to-one basis. Previously, merely Can Ye and Zhao Huan had obtained such an honor. Even them, the Imperial Princes, very rarely gained the opportunity to see the Rain Emperor alone.

Ling Han nodded at him. A friend in need was a friend indeed. In

comparison, the performance of the Eldest and the Third Imperial Prince were far below standard. He glanced at Liu Yu Tong. His little female attendant was naturally being supported by the clansmen of the Liu Clan. He considered it for a moment, but did not go over to say anything, primarily because he was displeased with the Liu Clan.

The Rain Emperor had clearly expressed his attitude. Moreover, he had delivered a fist straight on the heads of the Liu Clan, obviously expressing his displeasure towards the Liu Clan. Ling Han believed that the Liu Clan would not dare to continue to have secret dealings with Feng Yan.

"Young Master Han!" The Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes simultaneously approached, a fake smile on their faces while their hearts were ill at ease.

They were practically ready to die of regret. No matter how much they had calculated, they had not foreseen the fact that the Rain Emperor would actually make such a domineering move! They witnessed the way Feng Yan had paraded around so arrogantly before, but did not see any kind of reaction from the Imperial Family, and thought it would be the same this time. They had not thought that there would be any kind of unexpected accident today.

If they had known beforehand, they would have put their firm support behind Ling Han. They would then be able to have a deeper relation with the latter, and would also be able to obtain the Rain Emperor's favor. And now, great, they had offended both sides!

Ling Han merely smiled calmly, and said, "I have to meet His Imperial Majesty, so I don't have the time to converse with Your Imperial Highnesses!" After saying so, he flung his arms and stalked off.

The eyes of the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes were

simultaneously filled with anger. He was a mere humble commoner, and yet he actually dared to show his displeasure in the face of two such Imperial Princes as them. But now was not the time to make a fuss over this. The Seventh Imperial Prince had suddenly acted, and was now ahead of them in the race for the imperial throne.

In view of the imperial throne, whatever else could be set aside.

The two of them exchanged a look and smiled at the same time—their Seventh Younger Brother's limelight was too bright, so they had to suppress him a bit to ensure that all three of them would once again return to the same starting line.

Ling Han gave a nod to Guang Yuan and the rest, and also signalled for Guang Yuan and Zhu Wu Jiu to bring Hu Niu and return first. He, meanwhile, strode towards the Imperial Palace. The distance of about ten miles was only the matter of a dozen minutes for someone in the Gushing Spring Tier, so he was very soon standing in front of the Imperial Palace.

"Please follow me." An imperial guard approached. He had an average-sized figure and looked like he was only in his thirties, yet he was already in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. In Rain Country, this was an extremely astonishing fact.

Since the Rain Emperor had summoned him, naturally everything was arranged in order to receive him.

Ling Han followed the imperial guard and asked, "How do I address you, Sir?"

"Zai Xiang," the imperial guard replied coolly, seeming to share the same style as Can Ye.

"Prime Minister?" Ling Han could not help but blank out as he thought, 'Your parents must be disappointed that you are now a martial officer instead.'

"Xiang, not Xiang," Zai Xiang said calmly.

Who knew what kind of Xiang he was talking about¹, but since he had explained, it meant that his name was definitely not "Zai Xiang" as in 'Prime Minister'. Ling Han laghed, and did not continue making a fuss over the issue of names. After all, the other was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so he had best not irritate him to the point that he would turn around and smack him flat.

This man should be a confidant of the Rain Emperor. He was already in the Spiritual Ocean Tier in his thirties, and once he was fully developed by the Rain Emperor, it was possible that he would be able to break through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier in his forties.

Zai Xiang was obviously not a talkative man. If Ling Han did not ask questions, he would definitely not open his mouth. As he led Ling Han inwards, all the imperial guards on their way paid their respects to Zai Xiang upon seeing him, without any signs of wanting to question Ling Han's identity.

Evidently, Zai Xiang's status had gotten the approval of all the imperial guards.

The two of them very quickly arrived at the "Main Heaven Hall". This was where the Rain Emperor handled the country's affairs and where the ministers and officials would pay their respects. It was now past the time for the government conference. As a result, the whole hall was visibly empty and spacious.

"Go in by yourself," Zai Xiang said coldly.

'What a cold, unfeeling guy,' Ling Han thought as he walked into the main hall.

This was the largest palace hall in the Imperial Hall. The colossal palace hall was held up by tall stone pillars that were as tall as one hundred metres, giving one an imposing and grand feeling that would cause one's heart to tremble. Casting an eye over, the whole palace hall was empty. However, Ling Han knew that there was an imperial guard hidden behins each stone pillar, and they were all

in the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

At the end of the palace hall, there was a throne positioned high up, and on it was seated a man who looked to be in his fifties. He was obviously seated, yet the domineering aura exuding from him was enough to cause one to tremble in fear.

The Rain Emperor!

...He should be turning sixty very soon, but he looked only to be in his early fifties. He really did a good job in maintaining his youthful looks.

There was a woman seated by the Rain Emperor's foot, who seemed to be serving him, but Ling Han could tell that this woman was actually in the process of cultivating.

It was actually Xu Ke Xin.

They all said that this woman was being doted on, and it was indeed true since she was actually able to accompany the emperor even by day. However, didn't accompanying the emperor mean that she was supposed to cater to the Emperor's needs? How could she be cultivating? This was indeed odd.

Moreover, Ling Han could confirm with a single glance that the Rain Emperor was definitely not a man that would be easily influenced by feminine wiles. Otherwise, he would not have been able to obtain the power that he had now.

He had half a step into the Flower Blossoming Tier!

No, no, half a step into the Flower Blossoming Tier would only mean that he was close to breaking through to the Flower Blossoming Tier, but in truth, he would still be in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and still a mere mortal. Ling Han's thoughts flashed by quickly in his head, and he figured out that this was probably related to the power of the nation, which allowed the Rain Emperor to stride over that gap of half a step and truly possess the might of an ultimate elite of the Flower Blossoming Tier.

"Young man, you are giving me a headache!" the Rain Emperor spoke, and boundless might stirred with his voice.

Chapter 264: Beating

Ling Han raised his clasped hands politely in the Rain Emperor's direction and said, "This young junior hereby pays respects to Your Imperial Majesty!"

Since he had addressed himself as junior, the respects he paid were naturally that of a martial artist to his senior, so there was no need to kneel or bow. If he was greeting the Rain Emperor as a subject, then he would have to kneel. Those were two absolutely different standpoints.

The Rain Emperor did not rebuke him. Instead, he smiled, and said, "Young man, you are very proud!"

By his feet, Xu Ke Xin was awakened by the noise. When she opened her eyes and looked at Ling Han, she could not help but look slightly surprised. She had obviously met this young man before and had even once thought of killing him before, though she had not made the move to in the end.

She had never thought that this person would actually be qualified to meet with the Rain Emperor. This was extremely surprising.

"Your Imperial Majesty is the real mighty one here. Merely one punch was able to completely defeat that damn attendant of the Winter Moon Sect, making this junior's blood boil with excitement," Ling Han complimented.

"Hahahaha!" the Rain Emperor laughed loudly, shook his head and said, "Do you think that just because you speak a little flattery, I will forget the trouble you've caused?"

Xu Ke Xin could not help but be astonished. She had been by the Rain Emperor's side for a number of years, but had almost never seen the Rain Emperor laugh so hard before. He had even used a teasing tone to speak to a young man. This was practically

unbelievable to her.

Ling Han said seriously, "Please forgive me, Your Imperial Majesty!"

The Rain Emperor humped and said, "No matter how angry I was, I would not dare to do anything to a Black Grade high level alchemist!"

Xu Ke Xin could not help but stare with wide eyes. A Black Grade high level alchemist? This young man in front of her? How could this be! But the Rain Emperor would not be speaking false words, so no matter how unbelievable it was to her, it had to be the truth.

Ling Han laughed and said, "I had not yet thanked Your Imperial Majesty for helping me out of a difficult situation. I will definitely repay your favor in the future!" Since the Rain Emperor had pointed out his status as a Black Grade high level alchemist, then he would speak with the Rain Emperor as an alchemist. In terms of status, he was only slightly beneath the latter.

The Rain Emperor tapped lightly on the armrest of his throne and said, "My eldest, my third, and my seventh son, you have met all of them before. Who do you think is more appropriate to inherit the throne?"

Should he be asked this kind of question? Ling Han thought for a moment, then replied, "You should have made your decision long before in your heart, Your Imperial Majesty. I would not dare to speak any lies."

"You are a Black Grade high level alchemist. Fu Yuan Sheng and Wu Song Lin both take your opinion into account greatly. If you hold a different opinion than I and influence the alchemists not to sell any more medicinal pills to the citizens of Rain Country in the future, then wouldn't that mean destruction for the Rain Empire?" the Rain Emperor said calmly.

Ling Han could not help but be covered in a cold sweat. This

crime was a bit big, and added together with the fact that rulers tended to be temperamental, if he really thought that Ling Han was going to be a problem that would threaten his imperial authority, then no matter who he was, he would directly eliminate him!

He had pushed his alertness to the highest level it could go. If there was any movement from the Rain Emperor, he would instantly enter into the Black Tower. The most that would do would be allowing the Rain Emperor to discover that he had a secret technique that allowed him to teleport instantly or think he had a secret hideout. Even if he was forced to reveal some of his secrets, that was still better than losing his life.

"Put your little heart safely back into your chest. If I really wanted to kill you, you would not have survived on the whole way here," the Rain Emperor said calmly.

Ling Han laughed. Although he looked relieved on the surface, he was not the slightest bit relaxed internally. He was not one who would easily trust anyone.

"Ling Han, how should I treat you?" the Rain Emperor said. "An alchemist that can concoct Foundation Building Pills, the foundations of Rain Country could be disturbed greatly because of you!"

Pu!

Xu Ke Xin could finally not hold herself back from coughing. The Foundation Building Pills that had created so much commotion in the Imperial City were actually concocted by Ling Han? Inconceivable, really inconceivable, he was so young, so how could he actually be able to concoct Foundation Building Pills?

Ling Han thought for a moment, then said, "In the future, if I concoct any more Foundation Building Pills, I can prioritize supplying half to the Imperial Family first."

"Good!" The Rain Emperor finally smiled, and the tense atmosphere was instantly dispersed.

Accompanying the Emperor was really like accompanying a tiger. An Emperor was always temperamental and would kill anyone at the drop of a hat, so even if you wanted to be calm, it wasn't that easily accomplished.

Ling Han could not help but criticize silently. If he still had the cultivation he had in his last life, he would definitely have given the Rain Emperor a good thrashing for actually daring to scare him. However, at this moment, he could only grimace, and said, "I was almost scared to death by Your Imperial Majesty!"

The Rain Emperor gave a bit of foreshadowing first, then came a threat. All that was merely for the Foundation Building Pills.

"Haha, you will definitely become an Earth Grade alchemist in the future. By then, even I would have to welcome you heartily. Taking advantage of this time when your wings are not full yet, I naturally have to give you a little beating and bully you a bit, as I will not have the chance to do so in the future," the Rain Emperor said smilingly.

Ling Han smiled as well. Actually, the Rain Emperor was also a man with a sense of humor, though that would depend on whether he wanted you to feel that he was an interesting, humorous man.

"My eldest and my third sons are still a bit lacking in terms of disposition. They have ambition, but do not have the fitting manner for it!" the Rain Emperor said, giving a little judgment to his sons. "My seventh is a bit too cautious. He is an adequate defender, but will not advance enough."

He paused, then said, "You should be supporting my seventh. With the support of a future Earth Grade alchemist, I can rest easy and abdicate. I have decided, after my sixtieth birthday, I shall pass on the throne to my seventh, and from then on, concentrate my focus on martial arts."

Xu Ke Xin was greatly shocked, her face paling. She could not help but call out, "Your Imperial Majesty—"

The Rain Emperor pressed down with one hand, stopping her from speaking further, then said, "You should leave now as well!"

Ling Han did not pay any mind to the enigmatic words between the two of them, and said, "Congratulations, Your Imperial Majesty."

"Why are you congratulating me?" the Rain Emperor asked, smiling.

"When you have left behind the matters of the nation, you will be able to concentrate on breaking through to Flower Blossoming Tier, and will be thus able to cast off your mortal chains and ascend to godhood!" Ling Han said with a smile.

The Rain Emperor could not help his eyes lighting up. Instantly, his aura gushed out like the waves of the sea, and he said, "You can actually tell my cultivation level?"

Ling Han smiled slightly, and said neutrally, "I am an alchemist, so my divine sense has to be much stronger than any ordinary person."

The Rain Emperor nodded. This young man was indeed extraordinary. Otherwise, he couldn't have possibly concocted alchemical pills close to Earth Grade when he was merely in the Gushing Spring Tier. He once again tapped his finger on the arm rest and said, "Half a month later, I will organize a feast for my birthday. At that time, there will also be a martial arts competition held in celebration of my birthday."

Ling Han did not know what was the significance of these words, so he only nodded and did not reply.

"For the person who gets the first place in the martial arts competition, the prize will be a treasure in the inner chamber of the National Treasury," the Rain Emperor said calmly.

Ling Han was moved instantly.

The Eye of Truth!

The Rain Emperor was already half a step into the Flower Blossoming Tier, and added together with the power of the nation, he was like a god in Rain Country. Thus, his eyes and ears were practically everywhere in this country. Most likely, the few deals that he had made with the Eldest and the Third Imperial Prince had not escaped the knowledge of this Rain Emperor.

Ling Han tensed up. Then what about the issue of the Liu Sisters? Technically, he had covered for the criminals that had intended to assassinate an Imperial Consort. This was no different than committing treason.

En, he should not know.

The Rain Emperor was human, after all. Even if he had broken through to the Flower Blossoming Tier, he would only be no longer mortal, but he would still be a very far ways off from becoming a god. He could only be able to concentrate his limited attention on a few important people.

For example, his three sons who all had the ability to qualify for the competition for the throne. Their every move must not have escaped his knowledge as he secretly compared and mused over which one was more suited to inherit the throne.

Thus, the fact that Ling Han had discussed stealing the Eye of Truth with the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes must not have escaped the knowledge of this Rain Emperor.

Now, the Rain Emperor had taken out the Eye of Truth as a prize. The unspoken words here were, 'I am well aware of all your little moves. As long as you are willing to listen to me, then I will naturally give you some benefits.'

No wonder he was the ruler of a nation. He was very skilled at manipulating.

Chapter 265: Setting the Conditions

With regards to the Eye of Truth, Ling Han was determined to get it!

Ling Han thought for a moment, then said, "Your Imperial Majesty, the Eye of Truth involves a Mystical Power, and by that time, there will definitely be uncountable numbers of people participating. Perhaps even elites of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier would shamelessly make a move. I really do not have much confidence."

Unless he revealed the Black Tower. However, once the Black Tower was out, there would be ultimate elites from godly tiers descending to snatch it. It was much more important than any Mystical Power.

The Rain Emperor laughed, then said, "You don't have to play the fox in front of me. In the competition this time, I have limited the participants to only those below thirty years old. If you are not able to get first place, then you can only blame yourself for lacking in ability."

Ling Han thought for a moment. If only those below thirty could participate, then the only one who could stand against him as an equal was Feng Yan.

"You are a citizen of Rain Country. I want you to defeat Feng Yan in public, to show the might of Rain Country," the Rain Emperor said. Indeed, it was exactly like what Ling Han had guessed.

Looks like Feng Yan had paraded around too much previously, and he had even casually killed off a number of noble, wealthy people previously—the Rain Emperor was angered as well. However, no matter how mighty and domineering the Rain Emperor was, he was the ruler of a nation first and foremost, so he could not simply do anything rash.

If he had killed Feng Yan, then that would definitely attract the real elites of the Winter Moon Sect. By that time, even if Rain Country was not destroyed, it would still have to pay a colossal price to soothe the flames of rage of the Winter Moon Sect. This was definitely not something that a mature Emperor would do.

However, should he just allow Feng Yan to behave so arrogantly and do as he liked?

The Rain Emperor was a very domineering man, he naturally could not allow such a troublemaker to create a fuss right in front of his eyes. Since he could not kill Feng Yan, then he would just have to make it so that Feng Yan was defeated publicly, take the edge off his spirit, and teach him a lesson.

Ling Han nodded. Even without the Rain Emperor's request, he was definitely not going to have any reservations against Feng Yan. If he had the opportunity, he would definitely not mind killing off this guy.

"Go on!" The Rain Emperor waved his hand, and closed his eyes as if he had fallen asleep. Obviously, he was not intending to speak to Ling Han anymore.

Ling Han retreated out of the palace hall, and left the Imperial Palace under Zai Xiang's escort. The latter turned around and walked two steps, then suddenly turned back round and said, "Ling Han, do not disappoint the hopes of His Imperial Majesty!"

Without waiting for Ling Han's answer, he stalked off, looking very forceful.

Ling Han shook his head. The Rain Emperor was domineering because he had the ability to support his domineering ways. Every word and movement that Zai Xiang made was an imitation of the Rain Emperor. However, he had only learnt the appearance, yet had not managed to learn the essence.

He could not bother himself to call him to account, and headed

back towards Hu Yang Academy instead.

"Ling Han, was it?" A delicate voice was heard from behind him, enchanting and graceful.

Ling Han turned to look, and Xu Ke Xin was standing right behind him, her shapely, delicate body *****, drawing the eyes of anyone who saw her. However, Ling Han did not give her another look, and asked, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

He was now a Black Grade high level alchemist, so there was absolutely no need for him to speak reverently to an Imperial Consort.

"I had not thought that a minor character would have actually become a Grandmaster Alchemist by now!" Xu Ke Xin shook her head, then lowered herself into a slight bow. Her white skirts fluttered, like a flower blooming. "Ke Xin hereby greets Grandmaster!"

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "I dare not accept. Imperial Consort Xu, your greeting is much too polite."

Xu Ke Xin stood back up, pursed her lips into a smile, then said, "Grandmaster, Ke Xin would like to make a request of you!"

"Imperial Consort Xu, you seem to have made a request of the wrong person, right? His Imperial Majesty, the Rain Emperor, is the ruler of Rain Country, so whatever you need, the person you should make the request to should be His Imperial Majesty, the Rain Emperor, shouldn't it?" Ling Han said.

Xu Ke Xin sighed, and looked a bit sad. If anyone uninvolved had seen, they would definitely be overcome with sympathy for her and touched by her pitiful appearance. Unfortunately, this move was completely useless on Ling Han.

"Grandmaster does not know, but Ke Xin is only His Imperial Majesty's consort by name," she said slowly, when she saw Ling Han was looking completely undisturbed and calm.

"Oh." Ling Han nodded, then turned around to leave.

"Wait!" Ke Xin hurriedly caught up with him, then said, "Ke Xin would like to use a cultivation technique to exchange for ten Foundation Building Pills!"

She was now at the third layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and there was still a far way until the ninth layer. However, for all cultivation tiers below the Flower Blossoming Tier, breaking through to the next layer was not really that difficult. It was only a matter of time. Thus, she would be able to attempt breaking through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier a few years later, so if she had ten Foundation Building Pills in her possession, the chances of success for her would be greatly increased.

Ling Han could not help but laugh, and said, "Imperial Consort Xu has a large appetite. You're talking about ten Foundation Building Pills, not ten Return Origin Pills!" In truth, in the eyes of an Alchemy Emperor like him, there was not really that much difference between Foundation Building Pills and Return Origin Pills.

Xu Ke Xin was also aware that she was asking for too much, but in a bargain, how could she allow the other to know how much she could accept at the first instant? She said, "That is because the cultivation technique that Ke Xin has offered for the exchange is definitely worth this price!"

"Oh, tell me then," Ling Han said noncommittally.

"Grandmaster, please follow Ke Xin to a quiet place," Xu Ke Xin said.

Ling Han was slightly curious, so he agreed. The two of them went to a tea house, requested for a private room, and sat opposite of each other.

"What is the cultivation technique you are speaking of?" Ling Han had no intention to beat around the bush.

Xu Ke Xin could tell Ling Han was impatient, so she did not continue to tantalize him and replied, "Shapeless Heart Sutra, the complete six layers of the cultivation technique!"

Instantly, a few thoughts flew past in Ling Han's head, and he was able to connect the series of events.

Putting aside the grade of the Shapeless Heart Sutra, the important thing was that there were the complete six layers of the cultivation technique; this meant that it could be cultivated all the way to the Flower Blossoming Tier! And what was the thing that the Nine Nations of the Desolate North lacked the most?

That would be cultivation techniques for the Flower Blossoming Tier. This was what limited the appearance of elites of the Flower Blossoming Tier—those that had depended on the power of nation being instilled in them to break through were not considered. They were not capable of leaving their own countries at all. Otherwise, once they had lost the support of the power of the nation, they would instantly be returned to their original form. Additionally, if their age had exceeded their natural lifespan, they could even immediately die of old age upon leaving the country's borders.

The Rain Emperor had a unique relationship with Xu Ke Xin. Recalling when she previously said that she was merely the Rain Emperor's consort name, he could mostly confirm that Xu Ke Xin must have made a similar deal with the Rain Emperor. The reason she had broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier in a few years' time was most likely because she could make use of the power of the nation to aid her in her cultivation.

Thinking further, Xu Ke Xin fell out with the Falling Flower Court, could it really be because of a Staying Youth Pill? The real reason should have been the Shapeless Heart Sutra, which caused a desire to take it for herself to arise in Xu Ke Xin. Or perhaps the higher ranks of the Falling Flower Court wanted to kill her off to keep the secret, but were instead foiled by Xu Ke Xin making the first move, which led to the destruction of the Falling Flower

Court.

Perhaps, Xu Ke Xin had fled to Rain Country after that, and reached some kind of agreement with the Rain Emperor. As a result, the Rain Emperor was able to advance one step further, and have half a step into the Flower Blossoming Tier, and managed to pry open the door to the Flower Blossoming Tier. It would not take long for him to really step over the threshold into the Flower Blossoming Tier.

...Xu Ke Xin would never have thought that while she had only mentioned the name of a cultivation technique, that allowed Ling Han to figure out so many things. If she were to find out, she would definitely be shocked by Ling Han's deduction ability.

Ling Han was naturally uninterested in the Shapeless Heart Sutra. Putting aside six layers of cultivation technique, even if there were nine complete layers, he could not bother himself to give it a second look. He said calmly, "I am still very far from the Flower Blossoming Tier, so am not interested at this time."

Xu Ke Xin's mouth was slightly open, as she was incredibly astonished.

Chapter 266: Deal

In Xu Ke Xin's thoughts, a six-layer cultivation technique was extremely tempting to all martial artists in Rain Country... no, all Nine Nations of the Desolate North, because this allowed one to take the most important step, which was to cast off their mortal body and gain the qualifications to become a god.

Of course, the Flower Blossoming Tier was still very far from becoming a god, but it was undoubtedly the first step towards that end.

She tossed out such a bait, and believed that Ling Han would definitely be hooked. She was so certain but had never thought that Ling Han would actually refuse, and what more, refuse without the slightest bit of hesitation.

Could it be...

"Little brother, could it be that you already possess a six-layer cultivation technique?" Xu Ke Xin hence played cute. She was still very delicately pretty, her charms overflowing.

Ling Han asked, "Does Imperial Consort Xu think that's possible?"

Of course, it was impossible. How could Rain Country have a six-layer cultivation technique?

Xu Ke Xin was thinking in her head, but Ling Han had refused too decisively, so she still felt as if the latter may also have possibly gotten hold of a six-layer cultivation technique. She had never wavered so much in her life, so she really felt like she was about to go crazy.

Ling Han actively answered her confusion, and said, "I am an alchemist, so do I need that high a cultivation level?"

That was logical. At such a young age, he was already an alchemist close to Earth Grade, so he must have boundless future

prospects ahead of him! Moreover, a person had limited energy, so if he spread out his attention over too many fields due to greed, that would only lead to him not being able to master any one field.

Xu Ke Xin was still a bit doubtful, but it was not proper for her to keep asking. After all, she had something to ask of Ling Han. She hesitated for a long time, then said, "I also have a treasure that I can put into the trade."

"Oh, and what is that?" Ling Han asked casually.

"I don't know either." Xu Ke Xin shook her head. Because everything was not like what she had expected, she was completely shaken, and so she hid all her seductive wiles and became serious.

Ling Han could not help but break into laughter, and asked, "Are you joking, Imperial Consort Xu?"

How could there be something like this? She said she wanted to trade a treasure, but she didn't even know what it was. If that was the case, how could she be so sure that it really was a treasure?

Xu Ke Xin said, "Seven years ago, I and a few elders of my sect discovered an ancient tomb. We obtained the Shapeless Heart Sutra from there. And beside the Shapeless Heart Sutra, there was also a tightly sealed box that we had no way of opening."

She paused a moment, then said, "Something that could be placed by the side of the Shapeless Heart Sutra, this box must contain something that is similarly valuable."

Ling Han smiled slightly, then said, "Does Imperial Consort Xu want to use this unknown object to exchange for the ten Foundation Building Pills then?"

"That's right." Xu Ke Xin nodded. "Is Grandmaster willing to gamble on it?"

"All right." Ling Han said without hesitation. Anyways, he could casually concoct Foundation Building Pills easily and quickly, so even if he had traded them for an ordinary box, that would only be

a waste of a few million silver coins and about an hour's time.

But what if the box really contained some kind of treasure?

"Tomorrow, at this time, bring the box over, whereas I will bring the Foundation Building Pills," he said.

Xu Ke Xin was ecstatic, but then she hurriedly confirmed, "That's ten Foundation Building Pills!"

"Agreed." Ling Han nodded.

"Deal!" Xu Ke Xin was overjoyed at this unexpected turn in events.

Ling Han stood up and left. Since he had already decided to accept this transaction, he would naturally have to go and prepare the ingredients he needed. Unfortunately, the herb garden within the Black Tower was not yet ready. Otherwise, he could prepare his own ingredients. After all, he had only left the Mystery Realm just a few days ago, so how could it be possible that he would have gotten all the spiritual herbs ready so quickly?

He naturally went to the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion. After thanking Fu Yuan Sheng, he bought all the ingredients needed to concoct the Foundation Building Pills, then returned to Hu Yang Academy.

There was a large number of people waiting for him at the entrance who wanted to develop an amiable relationship with him. After all, he had just been summoned to see the Rain Emperor, and the Emperor's concern over him was still going strong. However, how could Ling Han have the mood to deal with them? He merely said a few words and sent off these people.

When he entered his courtyard, Hu Niu instantly stuck onto him. Ling Han said a few words to her, then brought her with him into the Black Tower. The little girl very happily began to play around, whereas Ling Han began to concoct the alchemical pills.

This was naturally a piece of cake to him. After arranging all the

ingredients he needed, after a mere hour, ten Foundation Building Pills were lying warm in the furnace.

The next day, the Imperial Family released a piece of important news.

The Rain Emperor's sixtieth birthday was right around the corner, and the whole country was naturally going to celebrate with him. Moreover, there was also going to be a very special martial arts tournament to display the military power of the Empire. The champion of this tournament would be personally praised by the Rain Emperor, and the prize would be a Mystical Power!

What kind of object was a Mystical Power? A large majority of people were not aware, but that did not stop everyone from guessing the incredible value of a Mystical Power—the Rain Emperor had taken it out as a prize, so how could it be anything ordinary?

All of a sudden, excitement was high in the air. Even the powerful elites of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier of the Eight Great Clans were restless, but when they saw the rules of participation for the martial arts tournament, quite a number of people wilted as the tournament was only limited to those below thirty years old.

True, the future of the Empire would naturally fall on the shoulders of the younger generation, so what was the point of old men like them joining in on the excitement?

Thirty years below... then there would only be two, and that was Ling Han and Feng Yan!

Anyone with eyes could see that this was the tournament stage that the Rain Emperor had set up for the two of them to allow them to duel in front of everyone's eyes.

"Mystical Power?" Within the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, Yan Tian Zhao mumbled to himself. He had a wine cup in his hand and

was seated comfortably, filled with an unworldly air. By his side, there was an old woman who looked vacant, as if she had lost her soul.

If one were to look closely, this old woman looked very much alike Lady Yan.

"I was intending to leave Rain Country, but did not think that I would be able to watch such a good show before I left. Now I have even encountered the appearance of a Mystical Power. There are strong and weak Mystical Powers, but no matter what, since it is called a Mystical Power, it must have its use, so I would not mind taking a look at it." Yan Tian Zhao placed the wine cup down, looked towards the old woman, then said with a smile, "Mother, I will become the champion of a martial arts tournament and show my face in front of everyone. Aren't you glad?"

She was indeed Lady Yan, but how did she suddenly lose all her beauty and become an old woman?

Lady Yan seemed to have become a corpse. After quite a while, a flash of life finally came back into her eyes. Her voice trembled, and she said, "You are not my son! You are a demon! You are a demon!"

"Wrong. I am indeed your son, it's just that I have some additional experiences." Yan Tian Zhao pointed at his own head, and an incomparably evil smile curled up the corners of his lips. "I still have to thank you, Mother, for transmitting all your cultivation to me. Otherwise, if I wanted to possess the cultivation level I have now, I would have to cultivate at least eight to ten years."

Lady Yan merely shook her head, and said endlessly, "You are not my son! You are not my son!"

Yan Tian Zhao turned his eyes from her, took up the wine cup and began to drink. He said to the skies, "Everyone thinks that the champion of this tournament will be either Ling Han or Feng Yan,

then I shall give everyone a slap and let them know, that I, Yan Tian Zhao, am still here!"

In the afternoon, Ling Han went to the tea house he had gone to yesterday to fulfil the deal with Xu Ke Xin.

"Ten Foundation Building Pills." Ling Han casually withdrew a jade bottle and placed it on the table.

Xu Ke Xin was very delighted, so she could not help but show off some of her feminine wiles, and said delicately, "Little Brother, aren't you scared that Big Sister will cheat you out of your alchemical pills?"

"You can try," Ling Han said calmly.

"Ai, you don't have the slightest sense of humor." Xu Ke Xin shook her head, and took up a box that was wrapped with a red cloth from her side and placed it on the table.

Chapter 267: Hundred Poison Jade Ointment

Of course, Ling Han did not completely trust Xu Ke Xin. As such, he immediately unwrapped the cloth and there was indeed a black-colored box inside. It was not made of metal, but rather of wood, and there was a faint sandalwood aroma coming from it.

He was in the process of examining the box, whereas Xu Ke Xin was naturally examining the Foundation Building Pills, and neither of them spoke.

There was indeed no way to open it.

It was not because it was locked, but rather because it was joined seamlessly together, so there was nowhere one could exert force on. From the looks of it, the only way to open it would be through explosive power.

Ling Han looked astonished, because he recognized the type of wood.

Connect Origin Heartwood.

This was an extremely valuable material. It had two special traits to it. Firstly, it was extremely tough and durable, and secondly, it was capable of preventing the dispersal of Spiritual Qi. Thus, this was a very suitable material to store some valuable medicinal ingredients. Once it was closed, the medicinal ingredients could be stored for a thousand, or even ten thousand years without spoiling.

He gave it a shake, and there was something inside. From what he could hear, there should only be one object inside. It felt very heavy, but it was impossible for him to say what exactly it was.

"Little Brother, Big Sister thanks you!" Xu Ke Xin said with a delicate smile, putting away the jade bottle with satisfaction. Though she wanted very much to know what was contained inside the wooden box, and wanted even more to confirm that it was a treasure, she had studied it for many years and attempted many

different methods but was still unable to open it. Thus, she decided that she might as well hand it over to Ling Han so that she would no longer have to worry herself over it. After all, what the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over.

Ling Han ignored her, so she was a bit unsatisfied. However, because she was in a great mood, she did not take it to heart. She pushed open the door and left.

After she had left, Ling Han instantly gave a swipe of his hand, and the wooden box had entered into the Black Tower. He did not enter into the Black Tower at the first instant, but instead chose to stand up and leave. Since it was already in the Black Tower, it was destined to belong to him, and no one could possibly take it from him.

He returned to his own courtyard in the Academy, closed the door, and finally entered the Black Tower.

If it was in his last life, it would be a piece of cake for him to open a box made of Connect Origin Heartwood with his cultivation as a Heaven Tier elite, but the cultivation of the Gushing Spring Tier was far from enough to do so. Otherwise, how would Xu Ke Xin have been unable to do anything with the box even after so many years of it being in her possession? She was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, after all.

However, in the Black Tower, Ling Han was a god!

With a single thought, the wooden box was opened, as easy and simple as if he had just merely flipped his hand.

Within the box was a piece of jade in the shape of a strip. As soon as the box was opened, a strong fragrance wafted out that caused his spirit to be roused and feel all the pores on his whole body open up.

A hint of excitement appeared on Ling Han's face. This was not jade, but a medicinal ointment, Hundred Poison Jade Ointment!

"I never thought that something like this would still exist!" He pressed down with a hand, and all the fragrance was suppressed back into the box. He could control everything in the Black Tower, as if he was a God.

Hundred Poison Jade Ointment was not naturally formed, but had to be blended later. It required up to a hundred poisonous ingredients as well as Seven Fragrance Jade to be mixed with a secret method.

This was not poison—if anyone used this to poison anyone else, that would be a humongous waste.

If any single one of these hundred poisonous ingredients were used on its own, then even elites of the Flower Blossoming Tier would die of poison. However, put together and blended with a wondrous ratio, they would suppress each other's poison, and what was supposed to be a deadly poison would be transformed into an excellent medicine. The more poisonous they were, the more plentiful this energy would naturally be.

However, if anyone were to directly swallow it as it was now, that would definitely be a direct path to death, because the energy that originated from the mixture of these hundred poisonous ingredients was too terrifying. It would be a piece of cake for even a Flower Blossoming Tier elite to burst from it.

However, if it was added together with Seven Fragrance Jade, then the violent, explosive energy could be released in a calm, peaceful way, and would thus allow it to be absorbed.

Naturally, Hundred Poison Jade Ointment was not to be swallowed, but rather rubbed on one's body. It would enter into the body by being absorbed through the skin. One could still eat it, but when these hundred poisons entered one's stomach, they would still cause a corresponding effect on the body.

What was amazing was that one with higher cultivation level could rub in more of it, whereas those with a lower cultivation

level should rub in less, and it could be used by people in different cultivation levels. It would allow one to increase one's cultivation level, strengthen the physique, and was an extremely valuable treasure.

It was easy to find the poisonous ingredients, but Seven Fragrance Jade was much too rare. Even in his last life, when he had had so many resources in his grasp, he had only managed to blend it once, and the amount produced could not compare to this strip that he now had.

Such a treasure indeed needed to be sealed by Connect Origin Heartwood. Otherwise, the medicinal effects would disperse very quickly, and could not be kept for even a single month.

He had no idea who it was that was so wealthy that he actually had a box made of Connect Origin Heartwood and Hundred Poison Jade Ointment buried with him. This was practically a waste of colossal proportions.

"Just in time to benefit me!" Ling Han said with a smile as he removed his clothing and began to rub in the Hundred Poison Jade Ointment onto his body. A cooling feeling gushed out, relaxing his whole body.

"Feng Yan seem to be very sure of himself. He seems confident that he'd be able to defeat me after ten days. Now that I think of it, the basis for his confidence should be that he would be able to break through within these ten days. Cultivation Tiers were a different level before, so there is a big difference between having broken through and not yet broken through."

As Ling Han sat in a cross-legged position, he continued to circulate the Five Elements Heaven Grade Skill to absorb the medicinal effects. Within the Black Tower, he could even detain the ointment's effects and ensure it was entirely used on him without the slightest bit being wasted.

This was a very shocking thing. If the medicinal effects could be

absorbed completely, this was practically scary.

"There is only ten days left until the martial arts tournament. I can't possibly break through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier in such a short time, but every little bit of my ability I can increase counts. I am definitely going to get the Eye of Truth."

After only a while, Ling Han felt his whole body heat up. The ointment was now completely effective, and he felt as if his skin was about to tear as he felt an extraordinary agony.

'F***, I have no experience, so I rubbed in too much.' He bared his teeth. Though he had also mixed the Hundred Poison Jade Ointment in his last life, he had used it on his four disciples. At that time, even the weakest of the four of them was already in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

He had decreased the amount, but there was still a very far gap between the Gushing Spring Tier and the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so it still caused him to exclaim.

Thankfully, he had cultivated the Body of Rock Cliff. Not only was his defence terrifyingly strong, he could even transform into rock and cut off his feelings of pain. When he actively circulated it, the agony instantly disappeared, but he could clearly see cracks appear on his skin and fresh blood seep out of his wounds.

He found a bit of joy in his suffering as he thought that, fortunately, he had not rubbed it on that important place. Otherwise, he would really want to cry now.

Hong , there was a powerful energy spreading out in his body, stimulating the continuous expansion of his Spring, which gushed out waves of Origin Power.

After about three hours, Ling Han stopped. The ointment that he had rubbed on his body was completely absorbed, and his cultivation level had gone up to the late stage of the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. By the day of the martial arts

tournament, his cultivation should be able to reach the eighth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

"If it's the eighth layer against the Spiritual Ocean Tier, I should manage." Ling Han nodded. His condition was a bit special, as his battle prowess far exceeded his cultivation level.

With the circulation of the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, the wounds on his body healed very quickly. He summoned clear water and washed off the blood stains on his body, then dressed.

Hu Niu actually did not come pester him today. Instead, she was very obediently sitting inside the Black Tower. Ling Han's divine sense swept over—the little girl was actually in the process of breaking through to Gushing Spring Tier.

A five-year-old in the Gushing Spring Tier; just the thought of it would make one dumbstruck.

Chapter 268: News From Both Sides

Feng Yan once again announced that he would take part in the martial arts tournament and would defeat and kill Ling Han during the tournament.

The restrictions for the participation in this martial arts tournament were already confirmed, and the final battle would definitely be the battle of the titans between Feng Yan and Ling Han. However, Feng Yan's announcing that he would kill Ling Han in such an unrestrained manner still very vividly showed his usual arrogant attitude.

Ling Han, on the other hand, was a bit passive.

Because the Rain Emperor only wanted him to defeat Feng Yan, but did not say that he could kill the latter.

...No matter how forceful and domineering the Rain Emperor was, he was also the ruler of a nation and so had to think of the bigger picture. In that case, he definitely could not allow a life-or-death enmity to form between Rain Country and the Winter Moon Sect. If Ling Han really killed Feng Yan, then the Rain Emperor would definitely imprison Ling Han and deliver him to the Winter Moon Sect without the slightest hesitation.

There was no need to doubt; that was the only result.

If Ling Han was only one person, that was fine. Even if he committed murder, he could directly enter into the Black Tower and hide for a while. After that, he would naturally be able to leave safely. How could it be possible that the Rain Emperor would stand guard outside the Black Tower all day?

Moreover, he would have no idea what means Ling Han had used to disappear!

The problem was that Ling Han had his family to think of. He could flee, but how were Ling Dong Xing and the others supposed

to flee?

Ling Han could not help but be troubled. How could he kill Feng Yan, and still ensure his own safety?

He kept thinking over the matter, and came to the conclusion that it was impossible.

Because the Rain Emperor would definitely not allow something like this to happen. He would definitely stand by during the tournament, so that he could act to resolve any dangerous situations at any time—whether it was Ling Han or Feng Yan that was in danger. One of them was the disciple of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, whereas the other was an alchemist that close to Earth Grade. Whichever one of them died, the Rain Emperor would not be able to make a good justification for it.

The current Rain Emperor was practically in the Flower Blossoming Tier now with the aid of the power of the nation and his ability was far from what could be imagined... to commit murder in front of his eyes? There was no way it was possible, and Qiu Ku was the best example of it.

Since that was the case, Ling Han also let out the news that he had become an Earth Grade high level alchemist, and caused some gloom to Feng Yan as well. Moreover, he had never lost in his opposition with Feng Yan before. Feng Yan, on the other hand, lost a brother and a cousin, so he should be even more displeased.

After the news was released, he did not know how much mental gloom Feng Yan was experiencing, but the whole Imperial City completely boiled over because of this news.

In comparison with Feng Yan, who was taken as a disciple by a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, something that would only cause envy, jealousy, and hatred and make others say that Feng Yan must have been so **** lucky, Ling Han was completely different. The status of a Black Grade high level alchemist could only be obtained through one's own personal capabilities, so it was a hundred

percent genuine ability.

Moreover, the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion and the Spirit Treasures Pavilion both testified that those nine Foundation Building Pills were concocted by Ling Han!

An alchemical pill that was close to Earth Grade, and the quality had reached a shocking thirteen Stars, what kind of concept was that?

Ling Han was definitely going to become an Earth Grade alchemist!

There had never appeared an Earth Grade alchemist from Rain Country, but this history was about to be changed, because as long as Ling Han did not fall, then it was a sure thing that he would become an Earth Grade alchemist in future.

Within only about half a day's time, Ling Han's courtyard had become very lively and crowded.

Previously, most had just been observing. After all, in the battle to the death between Ling Han and Feng Yan, the majority were more optimistic about Feng Yan. After all, he was the disciple of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite, and could even casually draw out a decree, so who knew how many other treasures he possessed?

But now? Hehe, even if a Spiritual Infant Tier elite was personally here, he would have to consider carefully if he could really act. After all, the status of an alchemist that was close to Earth Grade was much too sensitive. A slight change would affect everything else. If a colossal body like the Alchemist's Association was roused, what would be the result?

With these thoughts, they naturally wanted to flatter Ling Han and form an amiable relationship with him. Moreover, the fact that Ling Han had created a great commotion at Liu Yu Tong's wedding had spread all over the city, a further motivation for many to come with marriage proposals, wanting to marry their

daughters to Ling Han.

This young man did not only have a brilliant future, he was loyal and faithful too. He was definitely a good son-in-law material.

In the beginning, Ling Han was still polite, but as time passed, he grew impatient and closed the doors to his courtyard. Who would dare barge in without an invitation? Black Grade high level alchemists would be considered as a Big Boss of alchemy in Rain Country, and there were only two such bosses in the past. Moreover, these two now seemed to follow Ling Han's lead.

However, it was easy to make these people leave, but when Qi Yong Ye and the others came, Ling Han could only choose to receive them.

After all, though they were not able to become Ling Han's best friends, they had all come from Da Yuan City after all. They had all helped to rescue Ling Dong Xing previously, and Ling Han still remembered this kind deed they did for him.

He had arranged two banquet tables in his courtyard as celebration for his becoming a Black Grade high level alchemist—to him, this was naturally a joke. The one and only Alchemy Emperor would need to celebrate for such a paltry reason? However, he could not resist the others' passion, and so could only reluctantly concede.

He withdrew some ingredients from the Black Tower, and hired a cook from a restaurant to cook at the last moment. Soon, delicious dishes were prepared one after another.

This was really the most delicious food, as the ingredients themselves were extraordinarily fresh. They had just simply had a taste before getting into a battle for the food, making for a battered picture. The cook watched all this happen with confusion. One had to know that though he was quite a good cook, but to see people coming to blows because of his food... this was really the first time!

Could it be that his cooking had greatly improved in recent days without his knowledge?

After preparing the next dish, he himself had a taste, and instantly felt as if his tongue was about to melt.

Delicious, definitely delicious, indescribably delicious, unimaginably delicious!

After tasting one bite, and another bite after that, unconsciously, he felt like he was half-full. It was then that he suddenly realized that he had eaten half of the dish!

When the others discovered this, he was naturally thrashed, and could only continue to cook with a bruised and battered face.

"Oh no, oh no, this taste is too delicious. Once I eat it, I can't forget about it. After I've eaten it, I want to eat some more still. What am I going to do in future?!" someone shrieked miserably.

"That's right, this is definitely not because of the cook's skill, but because the ingredients themselves are too fresh and delicious. Ling Han, where did you buy them? Quick, tell me, or I'll have no way of continue to live!"

"Come on, say it!"

They had all forgotten that they had come to celebrate in honor of Ling Han's becoming a Black Grade high level alchemist, as they only had the utterly delicious food in their minds now.

Ling Han merely offered a faint smile. He would of course not say that these vegetables were all grown in the Black Tower. As for chickens and pigs, because they had only been reared for a short time, he had not withdrawn any to slaughter. Otherwise, there would be even more delicious ingredients.

When they were halfway through their feast, Liu Yu Tong arrived gracefully.

"Thank you." She looked at Ling Han tenderly. A man was willing

to barge into the Liu Clan and create a commotion at her wedding all for her sake, what courage did that require? Anyone else would not even dare to think of doing such a thing.

"You're my little female attendant, so how could I allow you to marry someone you don't love?" Ling Han said calmly. He had a fondness for both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan, but it was still a bit far from romantic love.

After all, he had lived two lifetimes. In his last life, he had lived to the 'ripe, old age' of two hundred years old. Though he had spent the majority of his time on alchemy, how could his heart be so easily conquered? Additionally, he only had martial arts in his eyes, so if one wanted to create feelings of love in him, it was not an easy feat.

Liu Yu Tong looked as if she had been suddenly splashed with a pail of cold water. The heat in her eyes instantly grew faint, but she very quickly reignited her battle spirit. Since Ling Han was able to disregard his life and ruin the wedding for her sake, then how could she retreat? Worse comes to worst, she'd just have to fight a war of attrition with him.

As long as she continued to stay by his side, why did she have to fear that she wouldn't be able to conquer his heart someday?

"Hey, little female attendant, what wonderful thing are you thinking about? You're actually salivating at it." She was just immersed in her wonderful fantasies, when she heard Ling Han's teasing voice.

Chapter 269: Regular Appearances of Monsters

Qi Yong Ye, Baili Teng Yun, and the others were all extremely regretful that they had not firmly supported Ling Han, and continued to call a toast to Ling Han and flatter him endlessly at the banquet, wanting to mend this crack in their relations. However, even if the broken pieces of a mirror were joined back together, how was it possible that the crack would disappear?

What they've missed out on, it was destined that they would not be able to regain.

Meanwhile, Zhu Wu Jiu, Jin Wuji, and Li Hao were exceptionally pleased. The man they followed was actually a Black Grade high level alchemist. This made them feel as if they were living in a fantasy. Such an important person was capable of standing on equal ground with the clan heads of the Eight Great Clans, and he actually called them as brothers. It was really impossible for them to believe this reality.

As for Guang Yuan, he was very gloomy. This brat had really hidden himself way too deeply, causing his heart to pound like crazy and lose sleep for a considerable number of days. However, Ling Han gave him a cultivation technique that swept away all his gloom.

The complete version of the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, and there were five layers of the cultivation technique!

He only had in his possession four layers, and there was some damage done to it as well. As a result, though this was obviously an Earth Grade mid level cultivation technique, he could only display the power of a Black Grade high level cultivation technique in his hands. Even so, it allowed him to become one of the top ten strongest elites of the Spiritual Ocean Tier among loose cultivators, which was proof enough of the might of the Large Sun

Heaven Heart Scroll.

Now that he had obtained the complete version of the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, he had also obtained the hope to break through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, instantly exciting him so much his scalp was completely numbed. He was practically about to break out into sobs.

"Little bastard, you can't play like this," Guang Yuan said faintly. As Ling Han gave him this cultivation technique after the banquet was over and everyone had left, he did not fear that his all-powerful image of a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite would be lost.

Ling Han deliberately stretched out a hand, and said, "Big Brother Guang, if you're not satisfied with it, then you can return the cultivation technique to me."

"Get lost. Something that has entered into my pocket will of course belong to me!" Guang Yuan quickly broke into a run, and called out, "I'm going off to cultivate. If you're planning to get into a fight, just say the word. I've decided, since I've already boarded your ship of thieves, brat, then I'll just go all the way on this path of darkness."

Ling Han could not help but laugh. This Guang Yuan was really quite an interesting person. However, he was also a very brave man, which was what convinced him to pass on the Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll with a light heart.

As long as one obtained his trust, then no one would experience any loss, but instead earn sky-high, soaring profits!

...He was the Alchemy Emperor, and there was no need to worry about alchemical pills in the first place. Moreover, he also used to be an elite of the Heaven Tier, so he had various cultivation techniques and martial arts techniques all memorized inside his head. He could simply take any one of them out and it would be enough to drive Spiritual Infant Tier elites to blows, fighting over it.

The night passed, and early the next morning, the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes came to visit one after the other. They wanted to mend the relations with Ling Han, but how could it be that Ling Han would bother with them. The type of person he most hated were those so-called friends who were obviously dragging you down, yet insisted that it was for your own good.

He had never given face to such type of people, and would simply thrash them and chase them away.

Both the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes left angrily, but Ling Han had already revealed his identity as a Big Boss of alchemy, so no matter how displeased they were, how could they dare to be rude to such a person? Even if they actually ascended the throne and became the emperor, they would still have to be polite in front of Ling Han, what more when they were only mere Imperial Princes now.

The Seventh Imperial Prince, on the other hand, did not come. He was the only one that could afford to stay calm in this tense situation, so he was naturally not the slightest bit anxious.

One day after another passed, and Ling Han would rub the Hundred Poison Jade Ointment on his body every day to quickly increase his own cultivation level.

The advantage of this medicinal ointment was not only in the fact that it could speed up the rate in which one increased his cultivation level, but also because it had few side effects. It was not like the Four Transformations Pill that would leave behind remnants of poison in one's body—after one swallowed it for some time, he would have to stop and wait for the traces of poison to disperse before he could continue to swallow any more.

Another two days passed, and a sizable commotion was heard from the Black Tower.

Hu Niu had broken through.

The Gushing Spring Tier!

After coming out from the Black Tower, she leaped into Ling Han's arms, and said proudly, "Niu can help Ling Han now!"

"Niu Niu is very awesome!" Ling Han said with a loud laugh, patted her head, thought for a moment, then continued, "Come, let us have a spar and see how powerful you are now."

The two of them went back into the Black Tower. This was a world of its own, so no matter how fiercely they fought, they would not have to worry that it would be found out by anyone outside the Black Tower. Moreover, the space in here was large and sturdy enough. Even if they had already reached the Shattering Void Tier, they would not have to worry about destroying the Black Tower, what more when the two of them were only in the Gushing Spring Tier at the present.

Once Hu Niu got into a fight, her ferocious nature would be completely revealed. Every move and technique was extremely vicious. Not only that, it seemed that she also had a kind of ability that could allow her to instantly teleport within a short distance. It was not really very far that she could move, just a few inches, but in a battle, a miss was as good as a mile. This kind of ability was extremely effective in practice, and very scary.

If it was not for the fact that Ling Han was god inside the Black Tower, he would not have been able to capture Hu Niu's instant teleportation. Because the little girl was really moving too fast, she created afterimages, and there was completely no way to sense where she had moved to.

To fight with Ling Han in the Black Tower, even an ultimate elite of the Shattering Void Tier would be brought to their knees, because this was naturally extremely unfair. Ling Han merely stayed on the defense and allowed Hu Niu to attack as she liked to make a judgement on the little girl's current battle prowess.

The result was astonishing to him, because even a conservative

estimate of the little girl's current battle prowess was at least nine Battle Stars!

When he was in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, he also had about nine or ten Battle Stars, and Hu Niu actually managed to match him.

There were two main reasons why the little girl's battle prowess was so terrifying: speed and instant teleportation. Of course, her "claws" were exceptionally sharp as well, so much that they could rip through the defences of an opponent in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. Otherwise, if she was only capable of hitting her target but was unable to wound him, then it would be all pointless.

The root of all this should be that human-shaped Spirit Base inside Hu Niu's Dantian. This was really too freaky. Just thinking about it now caused Ling Han's blood to run cold. And with Hu Niu now in the Gushing Spring Tier, Ling Han could only somewhat sense the little girl's aura, as it was more and more difficult to sense now.

One had to understand that he had the divine sense of the Heaven Tier and his senses were definitely not beneath a real elite of the Heaven Tier, but even he was close to being unable to see through Hu Niu. What kind of concept was that?

He believed that once Hu Niu had broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, then he would definitely be no longer capable of detecting the little girl's cultivation level.

"There are really too many monsters in this lifetime!" Ling Han concluded. It had not even been a year since he had been revived, but he had already seen the corpse of an ultimate elite of the Shattering Void Tier first, and then there was the appearance of a living, er, damaged god.

The Thousand Corpse Sect that had vanished without any traces for an unknown number of years had once again appeared, and

there was also Yan Tian Zhao—that evil aura made him feel despise, or even unease!

In comparison, Feng Yan had become a minor issue on the other hand, and he was still one of the more normal "variety".

'Forget it. I won't think about it anymore. However powerful they are, they are not as awesome as the Black Tower. If they anger me, then I'll dominate all of them!' Ling Han did not continue thinking about it, but continued to work hard on cultivating. On the day of the martial arts tournament, he wanted to beat Feng Yan completely in public.

The days passed one after another, and the day of the Rain Emperor's sixtieth birthday grew closer and closer. Not only did the Kings of the other areas come personally or sent their heirs to offer their well wishes, even the other eight great nations sent out important high-ranking people as envoys, delivering birthday gifts.

The Imperial City was completely lively. It was as if the whole city was celebrating New Year, as each house was decorated with lanterns and coloured banners.

And it was at this time that the Chen Clan could no longer resist, and decided to surrender.

The Earth and Water Faction came every single day to crash the shops under the Chen Clan's possession, and together with Ling Han, who would rather lose money and continue to attack them, the source of income of the Chen Clan was completely cut off in an instant. They were about to be forced into desperate straits after over a month of such treatment.

At first, the Chen Clan wanted to continue standing firm with the help of Sun Zi Yan's status, but as the news of Ling Han becoming a Black Grade high level alchemist spread out, one of the higher ups of the Sun Clan stepped out directly and made Sun Zi Yan divorce that girl from the Chen Clan.

With this, the Chen Clan had lost their last hope.

Chen Yun Xiang died of excessive overflow, and ended his repulsive life.

Ling Han did not continue to expand his attacks, and decided to allow this matter to come to an end.

Chapter 270: Birthday Celebration of the Rain Emperor

Ling Han continued to prepare himself for the upcoming battle, and tried his best to increase his cultivation level. If he wanted to battle an opponent of the Spiritual Ocean Tier while he himself was still in the Gushing Spring Tier, he would still have to be cautious regardless of how monstrously talented he was. After all, Feng Yan was indeed exceptional. Otherwise, he would not have been taken as disciple by an elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier.

He was confident, but was definitely not blindly arrogant.

Finally, the Rain Emperor's sixtieth birthday had arrived.

The grand banquet would be held for a total of three days, and the martial arts tournament would be held on the last day as the grand climax for the celebration.

The name of an alchemist that was near to Earth Grade was too popular. Not only did the various Kings of Rain Country come pay him a visit, but even the envoys of the other eight nations attempted all means to meet with Ling Han. They had even released the rumor that as long as Ling Han was willing to go to their respective nations, then it would be a small token to carve out a territory for him and name him as King.

Ling Han had Guang Yuan play the role as guard, who was in charge of dispatching all those who came to visit. However, in the case of the Da Yuan King, he made an exception for him and personally received the former. After all, the Da Yuan King treated him quite well when he was in Da Yuan City, and the Ling Residence was still under the jurisdiction and the authority of Da Yuan City. Thus, he was willing to give the Da Yuan King some face.

Indeed, the Da Yuan King struck his chest and assured him that

when his position was passed on to his son, or even his grandson, the Ling Clan would continue to stand firm in Gray Cloud Town.

Of course, respect and honor had to be mutual. Ling Han gave it some thought, and gave two Foundation Building Pills to the Da Yuan King. The stronger the ability of this King, the more he would be able to take care of the Ling Clan.

This naturally made the Da Yuan King both touched and excited. At first, he had thought that the Spiritual Ocean Tier would be the highest he could achieve, yet he had never imagined that he could actually see the hope of breaking through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. This made him even more determined to protect Ling Clan.

...Ling Han was able to give him Foundation Building Pills now, then what about ten years, or twenty years later? Wouldn't he be able to hand out alchemical pills that could help one to break through to the Flower Blossoming Tier, or even the Spiritual Infant Tier?

Two days later, the last day for the Rain Emperor's birthday celebration had arrived. In other words, it was the day of the martial arts tournament.

Ling Han brought with him Hu Niu, whereas Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, and Li Hao followed at his side. Then, on their way there, they were joined by Qi Yong Ye, Li Dong Yue, Jin Wuji, and the others. They soon arrived at the hunting grounds at the outskirts of the Imperial City.

This was the location for today's martial arts tournament.

At this time, there were various grandstands constructed here. The Eight Great Clans, and the envoys from the other nations were naturally occupying the best viewing positions, followed by the various Kings of Rain Country, then those middle-class clans that had a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite in their ranks, and finally the respective sects and associations.

And surrounded by the grandstands was the "stage" for today's martial arts tournament.

It was not really a stage per se, but a small hill. The hill was about 1000 feet tall, and had just been constructed recently. There were thirty-two paths at the foot of the hill, but these paths would pair up and become sixteen paths on the next level. As the paths went onto the next level, they would continue to pair up and become eight paths, four paths, two paths, and finally one path that was directly headed to the top of the hill.

There was a throne placed at the top of the hill, but there was no one seated on it at this point in time.

"Ling Han!"

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both approached. The former had come with her clan, whereas the latter had come with her master, so they had both arrived a bit earlier than Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled and began to chat with those around him as he waited for the martial arts tournament to begin.

The Eldest Imperial Prince and the other Imperial Princes were naturally already here. By now, the Eldest and the Third Imperial Princes did not even give Ling Han a second look, whereas the Seventh Imperial Prince offered Ling Han a friendly smile. Meanwhile, the other Imperial Princes and Princesses all looked at Ling Han curiously. This young man looked so young, so how was he able to become a Big Boss of alchemy? Even they would have to respectfully and politely address him as Grandmaster.

At noon, someone announced in a loud voice, "His Imperial Majesty has arrived!"

Shua , everyone stood up to receive the Emperor's arrival.

The Rain Emperor approached with great strides. He did not release the aura of someone who had half a step into the Flower Blossoming Tier, and looked extremely casual. However, as the

Emperor, every move he made had a domineering, imperial grace, so he still caused those present to unconsciously feel utmost respect for him.

Behind the Rain Emperor, there were twelve Imperial Guards. Zai Xiang and Xie Chang were in the first row, and were standing about thirty feet behind the Rain Emperor, looking solemn.

The Rain Emperor directly walked to the foot of the hill. With a leap, he had flown up to the top of the hill, sitting down on the throne at the top. He pressed a hand down, then said, "Please rise, my subjects."

"Thank you, Your Imperial Majesty!" Only now did everyone return to their respective seats.

"The rules of the martial arts tournament today are as follows: participants are to climb up the hill from the foot of the hill. The first person to arrive in front of me will be awarded," the Rain Emperor said. He did not speak very loudly, but his voice was very clearly transmitted into everyone's ears.

Though the Rain Emperor did not specifically say what the award was going to be, but the Imperial Family had already released the news that it would be a Mystical Power!

Instantly, the participants looked excited. There was a total of thirty-two paths headed towards the top. If they were fast enough, they would be able to avoid any strong enemies and be the first person to arrive at the top to pay their respects to the Rain Emperor.

So what if there was Ling Han and Feng Yan? It's all right if I'm no match for you as long as I can run faster than the two of you.

Even the envoys from the other nations felt the urge to participate. However, which envoy was not aged? They were here to represent the image of their respective nations. Envoys not only needed to have adequate ability, but a good reputation and be

mature enough. In this manner, even the youngest among the foreign envoys was older than fifty years old.

Firstly, the participants were checked to avoid anyone over thirty years old participating. If someone like that got the first place, then Rain Country would be completely humiliated. The second requirement was: only those in the Gushing Spring Tier could participate, and those who were in the Element Gathering Tier and below should not come and join in on the excitement.

With these two restrictions in place, the only ones who were qualified to participate were only those particularly powerful disciples of Hu Yang Academy.

Xie Chang and Zai Xiang personally performed the check.

Ling Han stepped up to register his participation, and was naturally approved at the first instant. Just from his face alone, it was obvious he had not yet reached twenty, what more thirty years old. Additionally, his cultivation was at the "first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier", so just enough to qualify.

"Niu wants to register too!" Hu Niu exclaimed.

Xie Chang and Zai Xiang gave her a glance. They were both seated, and there was a long table in front of them, with a screen hanging down. Hu Niu's head was not even tall enough to be seen over the table, and due to the angle, neither Xie Chang nor Zai Xiang saw Hu Niu. Thus, they were a bit surprised when they heard this voice.

Pa , Hu Niu stretched out a hand and smacked the table heavily, saying in displeasure, "Niu wants to register, you two didn't hear?"

Pu!

When those around saw this, they could not help but laugh. This was really too funny, a kid that looked to be about five or six years old actually announced she wanted to participate.

"Little miss, this is not the place for you to play. You should

quickly go somewhere else," Xie Chang said with a smile.

Hu Niu was very angry. She has never had a good temper to begin with, and was about to fly into a rage.

"Let her participate." The Rain Emperor's voice was heard from the top of the hill. There was a hint of shock on his voice. He was in control of the whole country and government, and was capable of using power of the nation. Within the boundaries of Rain Country, he had ultimate power, as if he was a god.

Thus, he could somewhat sense Hu Niu's aura, and could tell that she was a real, genuine Gushing Spring Tier martial artist.

This startled him to great heights. A five-or six-year-old in the Gushing Spring Tier?

The Rain Emperor could not help but glance at Ling Han. This brat was a freak, and the people around him were indeed also freaks.

What!?

The Rain Emperor's words caused all the people to be astonished.

Could it be that such a small girl was actually in the Gushing Spring Tier? However, no matter how much they tried to sense for Hu Niu's aura, they all thought that this was just an ordinary little girl, and there was nothing remarkable about her.

When they saw how Hu Niu had one hand holding tightly onto a corner of Ling Han's shirt, quite a considerable number of people "understood". It must be that the Rain Emperor was giving some face to Ling Han, and allowed Hu Niu to make trouble at the tournament.

It was all right, there was no issue about it. This was just a little girl, so the most she could do would probably be give them a laugh.

...These people would be very quickly smacked in the face with reality.

Chapter 271: Two Great Elites of the Spiritual Ocean Tier

Liu Yu Tong stepped up and registered. Aside from her, Can Ye and Zhao Huan too stepped forward. There was still a considerable number of disciple in Gushing Spring Tier in Hu Yang Academy, after all.

The allure of obtaining a Mystical Power was exceptional. As long as there was the slightest bit of hope, they wanted to try, especially in the case that as long as they were fast enough, they could completely leave their competitors behind in the dust, so it was fine even if they were slightly weaker in terms of battle prowess.

Ling Han saw Sun Zi Yan, and the latter forced out a smile in his direction. Then, he immediately turned around and left.

It seemed like such a long time ago that Sun Zi Yan had thought Ling Han was not worthy of regard, but it had only been one or two months, and he now had to address Ling Han respectfully as Grandmaster. Such a large gap caused him to be unable to face Ling Han and speak with him at all.

Ling Han smiled. He would of course not lower himself to Sun Zi Yan's level. However, if the latter continued to be blind, then he'd just have to casually stomp him into the ground.

"Feng Yan's here!" someone called out, and those present all turned around to look.

Indeed, Feng Yan was approaching with great strides. With every step he took, there actually appeared a silver-colored dazzling light under his foot. Each step gave rise to a bright dazzle, as if he was a god.

"The Spiritual Ocean Tier!" someone exclaimed in shock.

A Spiritual Ocean Tier elite was capable of releasing their martial intent outside their bodies, or they could engrave it into a weapon

to become a Spirit Tool, or draw it on talisman paper to form Spirit Talismans. For martial artists, this was an extremely important stage.

In Rain Country, there were a large number of the Gushing Spring martial artists. All the Great Clans had no shortage of such martial artists, but higher up the ladder, there were a pitifully few martial artists in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Further up the ladder, there were an even rarer few martial artists in Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

As a result, the Spiritual Ocean Tier could be considered as the real mid-level pillars in Rain Country or the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. Anyone in this cultivation level could be claimed as a powerful warrior.

Feng Yan was only twenty-four years old, yet he had shockingly reached the Spiritual Ocean Tier. This was extremely astonishing, and in the history of Rain Country, he could definitely be ranked within the top ten, or even higher.

However, though the Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists could release their martial intent outside their bodies, this would use up energy, so who would do it for no reason? Feng Yan deliberately came late, and was obviously expressing a kind of attitude—he did not pay any regard to the Rain Emperor, and he began releasing his martial intent right upon his arrival, which was a further show of his ability and an attempt to humiliate Ling Han.

The Spiritual Ocean Tier against the Gushing Spring Tier, wouldn't that mean an absolute, one-sided domination?

The Mystical Power would belong to him! And whether Ling Han was killed or heavily wounded would depend on his mood at the time.

Indeed, aside from Ling Han and Hu Niu, all the participants' expressions changed greatly. Against an elite of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, what martial artist in the Gushing Spring Tier would be able

to find the courage to battle him?

"Ling Han!" Feng Yan's domineering gaze turned towards him. "I had never thought that you would have actually become a Black Grade high level alchemist. I'll give some face to the Alchemist's Association and not kill you. I'll just cut off your two legs. After all, you only need your hands to concoct alchemical pills."

When these words were said, a storm of protest rose among the crowd.

The only one in Rain Country who would dare to threaten a Black Grade high level alchemist in this way was probably just Feng Yan. Even the Rain Emperor had to be polite to such a big Boss of alchemy.

Mad, he was indeed mad.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "I've once cut off two arms of your brother, so I can't make an exception for the elder brother. Then, I'll just have to cut off both your arms and legs."

Hu, the others all wiped off the cold sweat collected on their foreheads. These two people were indeed hot-tempered. From the very first moment, they already announced ruthlessly their intention to cripple each other.

"Hahahaha!" Feng Yan laughed loudly, and said darkly, "You are merely in the Gushing Spring Tier, so how do plan to fight me? All right, I'm definitely going to cripple you today!"

"Where do you find so much nonsense to spout? Are you a chatterer?" Ling Han asked disdainfully.

Feng Yan, on the other hand, did not get angry. He withdrew his martial intent. He wouldn't be able to bear continuing to maintain this condition. A cold smirk appeared at the corners of his lips. Today, he would gain a Mystical Power, and cripple Ling Han's legs as an interest.

Afterwards, he would still kill Ling Han. It was fine as long as no

one found out. The status of an alchemist only caused others not to dare kill Ling Han in public.

He would be well-known, and Ling Han not only would have to swallow the bitter results, he would also have both his legs crippled. Even if he managed to reattach them, his legs would be much less nimble than before, which meant only darkness on his path of martial arts.

After Feng Yan had arrived, no one else dared to register, as they were all scared off by his vicious might.

He was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier now, so he was practically invincible!

However, it was just at this moment that a short young man walked over. He had a shy smile on his face as he said, "I would like to register."

Ling Han's eyes narrowed, Yan Tian Zhao!

The first time he saw Yan Tian Zhao, this young man gave him an incredibly evil feeling. The second time they met, his evil air was still there, but Ling Han was no longer able to see through him. This was the third time, and Ling Han was still unable to see through him, as if there was a layer of fog covering this person, just like Hu Niu.

Hold on!

A thought suddenly flashed in Ling Han's head, could it be...

"Who are you? Tell me your name, age, and show me your cultivation level." Zai Xiang had a strict, all-business manner so his voice was unfeeling and cold.

"Yan Tian Zhao, fifteen years old." The young man looked a bit embarrassed. "As for cultivation level..." He stretched out his right hand, and hong , a green-colored dazzling light flashed, forming an intricate pattern underneath his palm.

This!

Everyone stood up in a flash. This was martial intent!

The Spiritual Ocean Tier!

F***! F***! F***!

"Gods, there's another Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, and he's only fifteen years old!"

"F***, I had thought that it was enough of a miracle for a twenty-four-year-old in the Spiritual Ocean Tier to exist. At least, there had never appeared one in the last three hundred years in Rain Country. Who knew that my shock hadn't even passed, when there appeared a fifteen-year-old in the Spiritual Ocean Tier."

"From the looks of this young man, he's definitely not twenty years old yet. Even if he is twenty years old, it is unbelievable enough for him to be in the Spiritual Ocean Tier at that age."

"Is this also a citizen of Rain Country?"

"Yan Tian Zhao, does anyone know which clan this genius comes from!"

Not just the crowd had dropped their jaws in shock. Even the Rain Emperor had slightly straightened and sat up straight on his throne. There was actually such a genius of martial arts in Rain Country?

The envoys from the other eight nations were similarly dumbstruck, and felt incredible dread at the same time. This generation of Rain Country was really a bit too awesome, weren't they? In alchemy, there was a seventeen-year-old Big Boss, and in martial arts, there were two Spiritual Ocean Tier elites. Did this mean that Rain Country would leave them all behind in their dust, and dominate over the other eight nations?

Yan Tian Zhao turned over and passed his eyes over Ling Han and Feng Yan. The childishness and bashfulness on his face

disappeared without a trace, and he released an aura that only belonged to a powerful elite, domineering and evil.

Feng Yan instantly looked serious. He was proud, but he was not foolish. Even if Yan Tian Zhao had just broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, he had no advantage at all in terms of cultivation level. Moreover, Yan Tian Zhao was only fifteen.

A fifteen year old in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, he'd never heard of someone like that, and never even dared to think that such a person could really exist!

Meanwhile, Ling Han sighed internally. Indeed, here appeared another monster by his side. In comparison with the Asura Demon Emperor, Yan Tian Zhao was no longer important enough for him to take seriously. "Rong Huan Xuan" was the real person he would dread facing now.

Very quickly, Yan Tian Zhao's information was found out—he was the only son of Lady Yan of the Cherishing Flower Pavilion, and had once been in a ten-year long coma.

A young man who had been in a coma for ten years, yet instantly broke through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier upon his awakening?

F***, I want to sleep like this for ten years too!

There was definitely going to be a good show today.

At first, it was Feng Yan who was the only outstanding person, and now it has become a fierce battle between two equally powerful contenders.

Ling Han smiled without a word. There was still himself and Hu Niu to be considered too.

Chapter 272: Niu Built This Road

At first, when Feng Yan appeared as a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, he was like an unrivalled God of War, and the one and only champion that was capable to suppressing all those around him until they paled in comparison. Though Ling Han was also a glorious and bright existence, yet that was because of his achievements in alchemy. His cultivation level of the "first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier" was completely unremarkable among the younger generation of Rain Country.

But the moment Yan Tian Zhao appeared, all of Feng Yan's limelight was immediately snatched away.

A fifteen-year-old in the Spiritual Ocean Tier was even more astonishing!

But that was a good thing too. What was the point of having a one-man show? It would be even more exciting if there was vigorous competition.

Feng Yan stared at Yan Tian Zhao, he felt slightly troubled. That was because he both had to prevent Yan Tian Zhao from being the first person to reach the peak and cripple Ling Han's legs at the same time. All of a sudden, the difficulty level had sharply increased.

Yan Tian Zhao stood at one side, an evil smile curling about the corners of his lips. His expression was completely unlike a young man who was only fifteen years old.

Liu Yu Tong was dumbstruck. She had personally witnessed that bashful and delicate Yan Tian Zhao. She never thought that this young man would be able to achieve the Spiritual Ocean Tier in a short few months' time. Moreover, that evil aura was enough to cause her hair to stand on end.

Everyone was making the final preparations, waiting for the

tournament to begin.

After another half an hour had passed, the Rain Emperor nodded and declared, "Get ready to start."

Xie Chang stood up and said, "The registration period is now over. The rules for the competition are as follows: There is to be no use of Spirit Tools or alchemical pills. You must not use any Spirit Talismans or decrees as well. In short, you may only make use of your own personal ability.

Technically, you are not supposed to wound anyone. However, weapons are blind, so even if anything does happen, it would be unavoidable. If you do not want to get injured, you still have the time to withdraw now.

Is there anyone who is unclear about anything? Immediately raise your questions now."

When he finished his words, no one said anything.

"Then, when I count to three, all of you are to set off at the same time."

"One!"

"Two!"

"Three!"

The third count was just heard and xiu, xiu, xiu, xiu , all of the participants rushed forwards.

Over a hundred people surrounded the foot of the hill. As there were a total of thirty-two paths from the very start, they naturally had to avoid any powerful opponents as much as possible. Moreover, every path was exceptionally narrow and would only allow one person to pass. Thus, if one wanted to advance forwards, the only choice he had was to first remove the person in front of him.

For this short while, they were like thirsty horses fighting over a

drink of water from a spring, and it was a fierce scene.

Xiu , they only saw a tiny figure race forwards and become the first to rush to the foot of the hill at a speed that was enough to leave them dumbfounded. The figure directly left behind the runner-up about half the distance, and began to ascend the hill.

It was Hu Niu!

Pu!

Everyone choked, 10,000 curses flashing past in their heads.

When Feng Yan appeared on the scene as a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, they were all extremely shocked, thinking that it was certain Feng Yan would get the first place. When Yan Tian Zhao similarly appeared as a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, they all judged that the first place would most likely be a competition between Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao alone.

But when the competition began and there was absolutely no doubt, they all thought that an unforeseen accident had happened.

A little girl that everyone had thought was just playing around had actually rushed forwards at a speed that they could only admire. She was so fast they didn't even get the chance to stop her.

No wonder the Rain Emperor allowed Hu Niu to participate, the little girl had to be in the Gushing Spring Tier!

Damn, a five-or six-year-old in the Gushing Spring Tier?

Everyone was so astonished their facial muscles were twitching uncontrollably. What kind of concept was that?

At five or six years old, the majority of people were probably still playing with mud, weren't they? Ordinarily speaking, awakening the Spirit Base would usually happen after ten years old, but this little girl was astonishingly already in the Gushing Spring Tier!

Moreover, her speed... was so fast that even Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao could only watch as she raced past them!

The envoys from the eight nations all exchanged looks, and they all saw that the mouths of the others were gaping wide enough to accommodate three eggs.

...Was Rain Country specialized in producing monsters?

Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao both made a move. One shot out a silver blade, while the other threw out a green-colored dense smoke. However, neither attack was able to catch up to Hu Niu. When everyone else reached the foot of the hill, Hu Niu had already reached the peak.

F***, what's the point of continuing to race then? They hadn't even started competing, and the tournament's already over.

"Wahahaha!" Hu Niu suddenly stopped, turned around, and placed her arms at her waist. Her ferocious nature was fully on display, and she announced loudly, "Niu built this road, aside from Ling Han, no one else can pass!"

Pu. Everyone once again choked. However, this time was not because of shock, but due to laughing.

Feng Yan and the others were slightly stunned before hurriedly breaking out into a run. Since Hu Niu had no plans to become the first person to reach the peak and was leaving this chance to Ling Han, then there was no need for them to be reserved, was there?

The others all fought to enter the thirty-two paths, and began the first round of battle.

Peng, peng, peng . Everyone moved, intending to become the first to ascend the hill. They would thus have to deal with the person in front of them. Each path was like a single-log bridge that could not accommodate more than one person.

In mere moments, there were immediately a few dozen people who had been forfeited as their bodies were flung away. There were only thirty-two people left who continued to advance. However, the "single-log bridge" very soon joined with another,

and thirty-two paths became sixteen paths.

Another sixteen people were mercilessly forfeited. They were flung away, and their bodies fell down from the air.

The next was for eight competitors to emerge from the remaining sixteen.

There were only eight people left. Aside from Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, these two who were considered to be the popular candidates for the champion, there was also Ling Han, Zhao Huan, Can Ye, Liu Yu Tong, Huang Zi Tao, and Qian Wu Yong. The Third Imperial Prince did not participate because of his position. The Eldest Imperial Prince did not participate either as he was past the age restriction.

Ling Han actually managed to pass as well? This caused quite a number of people to be confused. Wasn't this guy only in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier? Setting aside the fact that he was not able to rival Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, in the Gushing Spring Tier, he would also be considered the weakest, so how was he so powerful?

After all, there were not many who had actually witnessed Feng Yan and Ling Han exchange blows at the Liu Residence that day. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been so shocked. Ling Han was also a powerful opponent, all right?

Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao were very coordinated. They both occupied one side so they would only encounter each other in the finals when two paths joined into one. This would help them avoid encountering each other beforehand, which may lead to them both being forfeited. Feng Yan's next opponent was Huang Zi Tao, and unsurprisingly, he flung Huang Zi Tao out of the competition with a single blow and entered into the fourth path.

Yan Tian Zhao's opponent was Liu Yu Tong. He only gave a light wave of his hand, and said, "Apologies, Big Sister Yu Tong!" And he had forced Liu Yu Tong downhill.

Can Ye faced Qian Wu Yong. With a single wave of his saber, five flashes of Saber Qi danced wildly. Qian Wu Yong only gave a muffled humph, a splatter of blood gushed from his chest, and he was also forced downhill.

Lastly, it was Ling Han against Zhao Huan.

Zhao Huan was one of the three Core Disciples of Hu Yang Academy. Moreover, he was in the second place, so he was even stronger than Can Ye. According to rumors, when he was born, there was an unnatural phenomenon as golden light lit up half the Imperial City. Putting aside whether or not this had really happened, the current Zhao Huan indeed had a terrifying aura. His eyes were as sharp as dragons, and he was filled with a dominating air.

He laughed loudly and said, "Apologies, Grandmaster Ling!" He delivered a punch, and his fist was covered in golden light, shooting towards Ling Han like it was an actual shooting star, planning to defeat Ling Han and take the fourth path.

"Maybe not!" Ling Han similarly shot out a punch, and charged towards Zhao Huan without any fancy moves.

Peng!

A loud bang was heard, and the whole hill shook before they saw Zhao Huan being flung away.

"So far!" Someone gazed into the distance, and Zhao Huan had already become a small black dot in the far distance. Instantly, he was already 1000 feet away.

Ling Han managed to take the fourth path, and the final position.

Chapter 273: Who is the Strongest of the Younger Generation

Now, there were only a few paths left—when four paths joined to become two, and two paths joined to become one. Technically, that would mean one only had to defeat two more people to reach the peak.

Of course, there was a Hu Niu who did not like playing by the rules who was currently standing by at a higher spot, waiting to attack. However, speed did not represent battle prowess. Once embroiled in a close quarters combat, the advantage of superior speed would be greatly decreased.

Out of the five of them, who would be the last one standing?

On the next path, Yan Tian Zhao versus Can Ye, and Feng Yan versus Ling Han!

"Go!" Yan Tian Zhao moved. With a flick of his sleeve, xiū, xiū, xiū, seven battle spears shot out. These spears were formed from Origin Power and were entirely black in color. There were patterns engraved on the bodies of these spears formed from his martial intent.

Can Ye dared not be careless. There was a gap of an entire tier between them, and this was a gap that could mean he would be completely dominated by his opponent. He brandished his saber in a slash and displayed his full ability without holding anything back.

As the saber flashed, five flashes of Saber Qi shone brilliantly.

To be honest, five flashes of Saber Qi was extremely impressive. Before Ling Han had delved into discussions about the art of the sword with Mo Gao, he had also only formed five flashes of Sword Qi, and this was still based on the comprehension about martial arts that he had retained from his last life.

However, the Spiritual Ocean Tier was much too powerful. Moreover, Yan Tian Zhao was obviously a genius whose battle prowess exceeded his cultivation level. Can Ye put all his effort into it, and ding, ding, ding , somehow managed to shatter three battle spears. But there were still four remaining that, no matter how much he tried, he could not get rid of.

Pu, pu, pu, pu . He was instantly pierced through by four battle spears, and the force of the attack flung him away.

Thankfully, Yan Tian Zhao obviously took care in how much power he put into his attack. These four spears pierced respectively into his shoulders and legs, yet managed to miss his vital spots. Otherwise, the Rain Emperor was sitting at the peak, and if he made a move, that would signify a dramatic change of events.

The four battle spears contained Yan Tian Zhao's martial intent. As a result, though the battle spears would disappear once they entered one's body since they were formed from Origin Power, the martial intent contained in them would still subdue Can Ye. Can Ye was not able to move one bit, and with a peng , he fell heavily onto the ground.

"Heng!" A figure shot out and picked up Can Ye. It was Lian Guangzu.

When he saw Ling Han, Feng Yan, and Yan Tian Zhao who were nearing the peak, there was a complicated expression in his eyes. Yet he merely gave a sigh, withdrew his gaze, and began to treat Can Ye's injuries.

Can Ye's body trembled slightly, and his one hand was tightly gripped into a fist. He had even bitten so hard onto his lip that it had begun bleeding.

"Don't be despondent. It is no humiliation to lose at the hands of a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite." Lian Guangzu comforted his only disciple.

Can Ye did not cheer up because of this. Instead, he looked towards Ling Han, and said, "He is stronger than me!"

Near to the peak, Ling Han was currently engaged in a fierce battle with Feng Yan.

"Hahaha, are you prepared?" Feng Yan smirked. "Now I am in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so how do you plan to block me?" He punched out a fist, hong, nine long sabers appeared and shot towards Ling Han together with his fist.

These nine long sabers were naturally formed from Origin Power. The martial intent contained in them became intricate patterns that shone on the bodies of these sabers, and it was as if they were like divine sabers.

Ling Han laughed loudly. He waved his sword in a slash, and used the Four Seasons Sword Technique. Every move had four Styles, Winter, Summer, Autumn and Spring. Four images circulated, forming an unbroken sword intent, possessing formidable power.

Peng, peng, peng, peng . The nine long sabers were instantly shattered, and Ling Han's Four Seasons Sword Technique also disappeared at the same time.

The scene that Can Ye saw was precisely this one, and this was something he could not accept.

Not too long ago, he was still capable of ripping Ling Han in half with a single wave of his saber. Ling Han had only managed to escape that fate through a trick. But just how much time had passed since then? Now Ling Han was able to disperse the attack of a Spiritual Ocean Tier opponent, whereas he himself was defeated with a single strike.

The gap between the two of them was indescribably wide.

"These three... are the real monsters. You do not have to follow them, just go at your own pace," Lian Guangzu advised. At the same time, he really felt that it was a great pity, as he had once

wanted to take Ling Han as his disciple. However, because Feng Yan's matter had quickly happened after that, he was completely pushed onto the side opposing Ling Han.

...No one knew that Lian Guangzu had once stayed at the Winter Moon Sect, and had even received guidance from a powerful elite of the sect, which was how he managed to attain his current level of achievement. And that powerful elite was precisely Feng Yan's Master.

Thus, Lian Guangzu would try his best to fulfil Feng Yan's requests to return the favor.

However, a stronger battle spirit flashed through Can Ye's eyes. He was definitely not going to admit defeat! He wanted to walk to the ultimate point of this path of the saber! In Rain Country, he could only achieve a limited amount, so he wanted to step out of this country and into the wider world to refine and polish his saber arts.

He would either become a Grandmaster Saber Wielder, or die on this path!

"Heng!" Feng Yan's first attack did not succeed, and he was just about to attack again, but then he saw that Yan Tian Zhao had defeated his opponent and continued his way up the hill. As a result, he could only set Ling Han aside for the moment and race towards Yan Tian Zhao. His fist shot out, and once again, nine battle sabers attacked.

Yan Tian Zhao did not dare to underestimate Feng Yan's attack. Thus, he could only turn back around, flick his sleeve, and similarly shoot out nine battle spears.

Peng, peng, peng. The battle spears clashed with the battle sabers, and they were both shattered at the same time. Taking advantage of this opening, Feng Yan charged forwards and stopped Yan Tian Zhao from continuing to advance—anyways, Hu Niu could be disregarded. If she had really wanted to get the first place,

they probably should have just given up and gone home.

With a sharp whistle, Ling Han too charged into the battle with sword in hand.

Hong, hong, hong . It was a battle royale between the three of them.

These three young men were all the type to do things their own way. There wasn't any chance for any two of them to join forces against the third. Thus, each attack they delivered was aimed towards the other two, which made for an incredibly chaotic scene.

Yan Tian Zhao and Feng Yan were both in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Every attack they delivered would have martial intent circulating around, and possess incredibly shocking power. However, Ling Han, who was obviously in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, was only a slight bit weaker than the two of them. Thus, neither Feng Yan nor Yan Tian Zhao dared to underestimate him.

This was dumbfounding to the spectators, as they all felt as if their view of the world was crumbling.

...After a twenty-four-year-old in the Spiritual Ocean Tier elite appeared, another Spiritual Ocean Tier elite who was only fifteen years old appeared. Then came a five-or six year old in the Gushing Spring Tier, which once again attacked their weak hearts.

Then, this five-or six-year-old Gushing Spring Tier martial artist exploded with a speed that struck even those in the Spiritual Ocean Tier dumb. It almost made them die of shock!

And now, great, here was another monster-like Gushing Spring Tier martial artist who was able to stand against opponents of the Spiritual Ocean Tier when he himself was only at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. This was enough to make them feel as if they were dreaming.

Was this still that world of martial arts they knew?

Peng, peng, peng, peng . The three of them were embroiled in a furious battle, and as they simultaneously impeded each other, it was difficult to decide who would be the victor for the moment.

In terms of current battle prowess, Yan Tian Zhao should be the strongest, because his cultivation level was highest as he had reached the third layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. The second would be Feng Yan, who was at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and last would be Ling Han. On the surface, he looked to be in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but was actually at the eighth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and his real battle prowess actually very closely approached the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

But because if one was slightly stronger, he would naturally be on the receiving end of fierce attacks from the other two and thus was unable to get the upper hand, which was what forced this battle into a deadlock.

However, it was also possible that the fragile balance would be instantly destroyed. Because as of this moment, the three fighters had still not displayed their strongest battle prowess. If any one of them suddenly exploded and delivered an extremely powerful attack, it might be possible that he would be able to fling the other two fighters away and emerge victorious with this one move—the winner would be the first person who managed to appear in front of the Rain Emperor.

But since things have developed this way, the plans of the three have changed.

They would defeat the other two, and become the champion!

They were all proud young men, and faced with a powerful opponent, their first thought would be to defeat him and not retreat or avoid him. Otherwise, if they had lost their invincibility, then what difference did they have with any other ordinary genius?

"Heng!" Feng Yan was the first to reveal his trump card as there appeared flashes of silver light on his body.

He had activated his special physical constitution of Mirror Light Body.

Chapter 274: Wild Strength Berserk Ape Bloodline

The moment he activated Mirror Light Body, Feng Yan's battle prowess soared.

He would suffer 20% less damage, and could even reflect 20% of attack power onto his opponents. This was an extremely scary thing. Moreover, the more attacks he suffered, the greater the effects of Mirror Light Body. After only a few moves, Ling Han and Yan Tian Zhao had ceased their mutual attacks on each other, and had practically combined their forces against Feng Yan.

Feng Yan instantly laughed loudly. Though the pressure he was experiencing had greatly increased due to being attacked by two young powerful elites at the same time, the fact that he could stand against them on his own gave him a powerful feeling of achievement.

The battle today did not only include a personal vendetta or the Mystical Power. It also involved the competition for the strongest amongst the younger generation of Rain Country, or perhaps even the whole Nine Nations of the Desolate North.

They could not help but fight.

Yan Tian Zhao gave a hump, and a green six-pointed star flashed in his eyes. Suddenly, his battle prowess spiked, and he was able to instantly turn the disadvantageous situation around, now capable of standing against Feng Yan on his own.

The three of them were embroiled in a battle royale, but because of Yan Tian Zhao's sudden increase in prowess, he instantly attracted the majority of Feng Yan's attacks, so it had practically become a furious battle between himself and Feng Yan.

The pressure on Ling Han decreased. Neither Feng Yan nor Yan Tian Zhao had really taken Ling Han seriously. No matter how you

looked at it, Ling Han was only in the Gushing Spring Tier. Since he had not yet even stepped into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, how could they possibly think of him as a real opponent for them?

Underestimating him? They would have to pay a price for that!

Ling Han retreated a few steps and began to accumulate his power. The Mysterious Three Thousand was waiting to be used after he had accumulated enough power.

This sword technique was extremely powerful, and required a certain amount of time to gather enough power for it, but that would only be the time for one or two breaths. Immediately, an imposing aura exuded from Ling Han, and the might lying underneath was shockingly terrifying.

Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, who had been engaged in a fierce battle, immediately ceased all movement and turned to stare at Ling Han. They were shocked by the sword intent emanating from Ling Han. When this slash was delivered, it would definitely be a devastating, earth-shattering attack.

Ling Han drew his sword, and instantly, afterimages of swords appeared in the sky illustriously, heading towards Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao as a monstrous wave.

Feng Yan's expression changed abruptly. The power behind this slash was stronger by an unknown number of times than the Four Seasons Sword Technique! He had originally thought that the Four Seasons Sword Technique was Ling Han's ace-in-the-hole and his final trump card, but had never thought that Ling Han could show an even more powerful sword technique. This was completely unbelievable to him.

The sword rose, and it seemed as if winds and clouds were birthed with it.

Feng Yan quickly roared loudly. This slash was too powerful. He wouldn't be able to receive this move if he merely relied on the

Mirror Light Body, so he had to use his strongest trump card! As he roared tumultuously, his body actually expanded, as if it was pumped full of air.

The inconceivable thing was that black-colored fur actually grew rapidly on his body, as if he had become an ape. However, his aura also soared correspondingly, increasing all the way from the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

The middle period of the first layer, the late period, the peak period, and without the slightest bit of stagnation, he breached over and directly entered the second layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

It was still increasing!

The second layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, the third layer... and finally stopped at the fourth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

He once again shot out a fist, and like previously, nine battle sabers shot out with his fist. But they were far more profound than they had been, and the martial intent contained in them was much more powerful as well.

On the other side, Yan Tian Zhao's eyes had also narrowed, and a green fog gushed out from all over his body, forming a shield-like object in front of him, and he was protected behind it.

Xiu, xiu, xiu. The sword images shot forward, and it was indeed an earth-shattering attack.

On the peak, the Rain Emperor had also stood up. His face that had been formerly calm was now wearing a shocked expression. It was obvious that the might behind Ling Han's move had exceeded even his expectations.

The swords reached their target!

Hong, hong, hong, hong, hong, hong . Thunderous bangs were heard, and one after another, streams of light clashed, crashed into one another, and shattered, putting on an endless luster.

All those at the foot of the hill were watching dizzily with wide eyes. These few young men were obviously merely in the early stage of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, yet they displayed battle prowess that should belong to the middle stage, or even late stage of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

No, there was even a guy that was only in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier!

This was too much f***** nonsense. Did that mean that the ranks in martial arts were only for show?

After this one move, Ling Han, Feng Yan, and Yan Tian Zhao separated, with a certain distance between each other. For the moment, none of them made a move, and merely stood opposite one another.

"I really can't underestimate you!" Feng Yan said solemnly. However, his whole body was covered with black fur and all his muscles were swelling, so he had completely transformed into a muscular guy and there wasn't any hint left of his original appearance. It was like a giant ape had suddenly crashed the show, and ruined the image completely.

"However, now that you have forced me to use my trump card, the two of you would only be qualified to be trampled under my feet!" he laughed wildly.

Ling Han frowned slightly, and said, "Wild Strength Berserk Ape bloodline?" He finally understood why Feng Yan would be taken as disciple by a powerful elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier from the Winter Moon Sect—Wild Strength Berserk Ape was an ancient demonic beast, and it was rumored that these demonic beasts were in the Shattering Void Tier. Moreover, they were an extremely powerful race even in the Shattering Void Tier. Since he had inherited this kind of bloodline, Feng Yan could also possibly break through to Shattering Void Tier.

Who would be able to resist the temptation of having a disciple in

the Shattering Void Tier? The stronger one's ability, the more powerful their desire. Since they themselves could not possibly break through to the Shattering Void Tier in this lifetime, then having a disciple that could would similarly bring to them a powerful satisfaction and sense of accomplishment.

Feng Yan could not help but tense up, and said, "You even know about Wild Strength Berserk Ape?" Actually, in the past, he himself had no idea what kind of bloodline he possessed. It was only by coincidence that it was discovered by that powerful elite from the Winter Moon Sect, who recognized this bloodline.

Yet Ling Han actually managed to recognize it with a single look. This guy was really too knowledgeable, wasn't he?

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "So what if it is Wild Strength Berserk Ape? Your bloodline is extremely thin at the moment and can only increase your cultivation level by three layers, so it's nothing to worry about."

"Then, I'll just have to let you see how much I am 'nothing to worry about'!" Feng Yan was flung into a furious rage. The hatred he felt for Ling Han who had killed his brother burned powerfully in his heart, and as he had activated the bloodline of a demonic beast, his temperament was also greatly affected. He had become incredibly brusque and violent, and instantly charged toward Ling Han!

Ceng, ceng, ceng , his ten fingers separated and transformed into sharp claws that were like the blades of knives.

Feng Yan waved his hands repeatedly and his claws tore through the air, actually forming multiple blades made of air. Xiu, xiu, xiu, xiu , they flew towards Ling Han first, whereas Feng Yan himself followed closely behind. His whole body was exuding a shockingly violent air, as if he himself was an ancient demonic beast that had been brought back to life.

Ling Han frowned slightly. The bloodline of an ancient demonic

beast was indeed a headache!

He humphed. He was not able to use the Mysterious Three Thousand as he did not have the time to, so he merely waved his sword and used the Four Seasons Sword Technique. Instantly, the images of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter were displayed, making one feel as if they were able to experience the change of seasons all in a single instant.

Pu, pu, pu, pu . The blades of air shot out, and the sword move of the Four Seasons Sword Technique paused. Feng Yan took the chance to charge over and shot out a fist. Nine battle sabers appeared, and ruthlessly headed towards Ling Han's chest.

Ling Han used the Shadow Wind Technique, and rapidly retreated.

Peng!

However, he still experienced a bit of suffering as his whole body was flung thirty feet away. A bit of blood seeped out of the corner of his lips. Even if he had now formed Body of Rock Cliff, he was still not able to completely resist Feng Yan's attack. After all, the power of an elite in the fourth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier added together with the bloodline of the Wild Strength Berserk Ape totalled up to a much too powerful attack prowess.

Feng Yan laughed in his arrogance and said, "In ancient days, the Wild Strength Berserk Ape was practically invincible. Their claws brought their own rules of the world, and were able to tear through all defences! Ling Han, I'm definitely going to cripple both your legs today!"

Chapter 275: An Astonishing Hu Niu

Yan Tian Zhao pressed down on his nose and muttered, "So there's no more of my business?" He shook his head and said, "Forget it, Rain Country is only one of my stopovers. Once I have obtained the Mystical Power, I shall go to a more lively spot in the Northern Region for a look around. The overall level of martial arts in this place is really too low, and there are only these few geniuses, so it is not beneficial to my growth."

He placed his hands behind his back and headed towards the peak of the hill.

"Niu built this road, and no one is allowed to pass!" Hu Niu instantly stretched out her arms, looking like she was planning to stop him from passing.

"Little girl, you're a bit strange, but you are not yet strong enough to stand against me. Step aside, I don't want to hurt you," Yan Tian Zhao said calmly. It was unknown whether he had become merciful or was wary of Hu Niu's strangeness.

"Heng, aside from Ling Han, no one is allowed to pass!" Hu Niu snarled, and took the initiative to attack.

Xiu , she was as fast as a gust of wind, and quite many elites of the Spiritual Ocean Tier could barely capture her movements. With a flash, the little girl had already appeared behind Yan Tian Zhao. She raised her small hands high, and shua, shua, shua , launched a series of furious claw attacks.

Teng, teng, teng . Yan Tian Zhao suddenly stumbled back a few steps due to the attack, and there appeared multiple bloodstains on his back, which showed the terrifying destructive power Hu Niu had in her hands.

Once again, another person in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and once more someone capable of wounding an

opponent in the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

Those standing at the foot of the hill felt like they were living in a dream. This was really too surreal. When had the Gushing Spring Tier become so awesome? And moreover, it was only the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier!

Previously, they had all thought Hu Niu was purely there to play cute, but had never thought that the tournament had just barely begun and the little girl would deliver such a great shock to them, bursting with an astonishing speed.

However, speed was speed, but what about now?

The first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier could actually rip through the defences of the Spiritual Ocean Tier... this destructive power was practically terrifying.

They once again turned to look at Feng Yan. According to hearsay, the destructive power of the Wild Strength Berserk Ape was frightening, but an attack on Ling Han only managed to cause a bit of blood to appear at the corner of his lips. However, Hu Niu was capable of reducing Yan Tian Zhao's back to a lump of flesh and blood. Under such a comparison, it was obvious that it would be more accurate to say that Hu Niu was the owner of the Wild Strength Berserk Ape bloodline.

...On one side, it was a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist attacking a Gushing Spring Tier opponent, whereas on the other side, it was a Gushing Spring Tier martial artist attacking a Spiritual Ocean Tier opponent, yet it was Hu Niu whose destructive power was stronger, so how could it be any more obvious?

Xiu , Hu Niu once again launched an attack. Speed was her greatest advantage as she moved like the wind. When one's eyes captured her figure, in actual fact, the little girl had appeared in another location, and what the eyes saw was actually only her afterimage.

Hu Niu had no sliver of mercy in her at all. Slaughter was her instinct, and now that her instincts had been activated, it was as if she had transformed into a little girl and endlessly pounced on Yan Tian Zhao in attack.

On his arms and legs, Yan Tian Zhao continued to bleed endlessly. It was pointless even if he had the cultivation of the Spiritual Ocean Tier as he was completely unable to spot Hu Niu, so there was absolutely no use for his superior cultivation!

Everyone was flabbergasted. In their mindset, speed could only be used for the purpose of flight, but this scene in front of their eyes had turned over all their ideas—the reason why they would have this idea was because their speed had not reached an extreme level!

Whoever had speed like what Hu Niu possessed was completely able to turn speed into the greatest source of their battle prowess.

Yan Tian Zhao's expression became darker and darker, but there was still an incredibly evil smile curling up the corners of his lips. Hong , he actually sprayed out a green fog all over his body that transformed into multiple threads that wove together tightly and transformed the area within thirty feet of him into a spiderweb-like area.

It was not a net that had been laid flat, but a net that stood upright.

Hu Niu instantly crashed into the green net. She struggled, but discovered that though the green threads were extremely thin, they were shockingly sturdy, so no matter how much effort she used, she was unable to struggle free.

"Heng, in my Heaven and Earth Spider Web, you still plan on getting free?" Yan Tian Zhao smirked coldly. These threads moved, and it was as if they had a life and will of their own, sending Hu Niu closer and closer to Yan Tian Zhao.

Hu Niu became anxious, turned her head, opened her mouth and

bit. Wu la , and a green thread actually was ripped in half by her bite.

Pu!

Yan Tian Zhao was so shocked, his eyeballs were about to pop out of his head. This was Heaven and Earth Spider Web, his absolute trump card. As long as someone that was of the same cultivation level as he was captured by his spider web, then it was impossible he would be able to get free. The sturdiness of it was comparable to ingredients of the same level that were used to forge weapons.

Yet this little girl actually tore through it with a bite... what kind of f***** teeth did she have?!

When he recalled how he had suffered so many claw attacks at Hu Niu's hands, then if the little girl coincidentally decided to bite him instead... Yan Tian Zhao could not help but swallow and reach out to rub his throat. Then it was really possible that she could tear through his throat in a single bite, and he would die instantly.

He could not help but feel a powerful lingering feat, and the killing intent in his eyes grew exponentially. He delivered a palm strike to Hu Niu's chest.

"Heng!" the Rain Emperor gave a light humph, and his imperial authority spread out, broad and powerful.

Yan Tian Zhao instantly experienced a pain in his chest, and his consciousness shivered. He hurriedly withdrew some portion of his power and, with a peng , Hu Niu was flung away by the strike. With a pa , she had fallen at the foot of the hill, and her small figure lay unmoving on the ground.

She had only suffered a heavy injury because that humph of the Rain Emperor made Yan Tian Zhao withdraw a large portion of his power.

...The Rain Emperor had already said that this was a tournament and a spar, so it was unavoidable that there would be injuries.

However, killing someone else was definitely not permitted. In front of the Rain Emperor, who would dare commit murder?

Ling Han was currently engaged in a great battle with Feng Yan, and when he saw this scene, he could not help but fly into a powerful rage.

"Get lost!" He waved out a powerful slash which contained an endless inferno of fury. Feng Yan actually dared not receive this strike head on, and could not help but make a strategic retreat.

With a sweep of his divine sense, Ling Han knew that Hu Niu was not in any life-threatening danger. He also knew that with the Rain Emperor there, it was impossible that anyone would lose their life. But when he saw Hu Niu's tiny figure lying there on the ground without any sign of movement and with a bit of blood on the corner of her lips, he was still extraordinarily enraged, and felt an urge to destroy every bit of the heavens and earth.

Hu Niu had been injured because she had tried to stop Yan Tian Zhao, and the reason why Hu Niu had done so was naturally because of him!

Since his rebirth, this was the second time he was so furious—the first time was when Ling Dong Xing was captured by the Cheng Clan and was about to be beheaded in public.

"Yan Tian Zhao!" he roared, shrugged off Feng Yan and charged towards Yan Tian Zhao.

Yan Tian Zhao was also very displeased. He, a genuine Spiritual Ocean Tier elite, was actually beaten black and blue by a little girl. Now, he had only knocked Hu Niu unconscious, and injured her slightly, so what was there for Ling Han to be so furious about?

Feng Yan was even more enraged and screamed in fury, because Ling Han actually shrugged him off and ignored him. Moreover, this was the first time he had seen Ling Han so furious. Even when Liu Yu Tong was forced to marry another, Ling Han had not been

so angered.

This obviously meant that Ling Han had only been playing with him previously, and had not taken him seriously as an opponent at all.

Damn it! Damn it! He was really too despicable!

Ling Han was enraged. Liu Yu Tong was merely his little female attendant, but he thought of Hu Niu as his family. Moreover, Hu Niu was only such a little girl, so she was naturally even more doted upon by Ling Han. Even he dared not reprimand her too harshly, yet now she was actually so heavily injured by Yan Tian Zhao that she was lying on the ground unmoving. How could this not cause him to be extraordinarily furious?

"Ah!" He drew his sword in rage, and at that one moment, he had forgotten everything else, and the only thought in his head was to behead Yan Tian Zhao.

Shua , seven flashes of Sword Qi shone.

Chapter 276: Seven Flashes of Sword Qi

Under the fury, Ling Han finally broke through, forming the seventh flash of Sword Qi!

Teng, teng, teng , everyone at the base of the hill stood up.

No matter if it were Saber Qi or Sword Qi, as long as one produced Qi, one would have the potential to become a king. However, up to three flashes was just a minor accomplishment, and six flashes counted as major accomplishment, but seven flashes... could truly be crowned king!

To observe Rain Country's history, those who possessed six flashes of Qi were not little, though all of them were sixty or seventy before reaching it; at least, geniuses like that still existed.

But seven flashes?

One and only!

Surveying the entire Nine Nations of the Desolate North, seven hundred years ago, a genius blade user certainly appeared and materialized seven flashes of Sword Qi, being invincible at the Spiritual Pedestal Tier—not shaming the state of king. However, when this blade sect master formed seven flashes of Sword Qi, he or she was already at a high age of sixty-two years old.

How old was this youngster before their eyes?

A freak!

The freaks today were appearing endlessly.

The seventh flash of Sword Qi wasn't all of Ling Han's breakthrough!

Under his violent rage, Ling Han unleashed Mysterious Three Thousand. This was his strongest sword skill as usual, but what wasn't usual was that under the violent rage, each flash of Sword Qi transformed.

Mysterious Three Thousand could instantly unleash three thousand attacks at one's extreme. This was definitely an ultimate move, and at the highest tier, it could almost take over the world. However, Ling Han was far from such a tier, so he could only unleash a hundred attacks.

Now, eight hundred sword lights appeared!

Could his comprehension of Mysterious Three Thousand have advanced so much under his rage?

The strange thing was that he still unleashed a hundred sword lights.

That was because the seven flashes of Sword Qi split, from one into two, and from two into three, with each flash of Sword Qi turning into a hundred sword lights!

Eight hundred sword lights radiated through heaven and earth.

What sort of concept was this? It was equivalent to eight hundred Ling Hans attacking and each one unleashing an attack; although this attack was a normal one, without using any techniques, but it was a full-force attack. Eight hundred together could scare someone to death.

Behind, Feng Yan stopped abruptly. This radiant and resplendent attack scared even him, making him unwilling to parry that attack; that would truly be walking himself into trouble.

Yan Tian Zhao's expression changed drastically; he hurriedly roared and waves of green mist were ejected, turning into a barrier that blocked the area between him and Ling Han.

Eight hundred sword lights struck!

Peng , the green barrier immediately turned into infinite pieces and the sword light continued on its path, sending Yan Tian Zhao flying through the sky in a parabolic arc before landing heavily onto the ground.

He was still alive, but his body was covered in blood. His body was torn so much that bones were revealed and organs could be seen in his thoracic cavity! The surprising thing was that the muscles in his entire body were wriggling, healing at a surprisingly fast speed.

Ling Han was shocked, this still couldn't kill him?

It was no wonder Rain Emperor didn't intervene.

Pa , he sat onto the ground. Eight hundred sword lights had been shockingly powerful, but the expenditure was also terrifyingly large, extracting his Origin Power completely!

This was only eight hundred sword lights, which wasn't the limit of three thousand; it was no wonder that he couldn't activate the Three Styles of Black Origin's second form and third form—he didn't even have the Origin Power.

Heaven's Sword Sect's people... were all abnormal?

Ling Han panted heavily; Hu Niu was in a coma; Yan Tian Zhao was in a coma; only Fen Yang's battle prowess was whole!

"Hahahaha!" Feng Yan laughed aloud, walking over in large strides. "Who would've thought that I'd win in this way." He already restrained his Wild Strength Berserk Ape bloodline, which was greatly exhausting, so he naturally restrained his Mirror Light Body as well. Now the other three already lost their battle prowess, even if his cultivation was weakened by a hundred times, he would still win.

Ling Han smiled bitterly. He didn't think much under a violent rage, and he didn't know he could acquire a breakthrough on the application of Mysterious Three Thousand, unleashing eight hundred sword lights at once and draining his Origin Power completely.

Medicinal pills couldn't be taken during the match. Taking a pill meant forfeiting, so what should he do? Watch helplessly as Feng

Yan reached the top?

"You truly disappoint me. I had thought to defeat you when you unleashed your full battle prowess, then cripple your two legs, striking you from the pinnacle of your life to an all-time low!" Feng Yan said with a disappointed tone.

Ling Han laughed aloud, and said in disdain, "My sword strike just now, would you dare to parry it?"

Feng Yan's expression stiffened; even if he had two physiques 1 , which were both kickass, he was still scared by those radiant and extreme eight hundred sword lights. He supposed it could be blocked, but he would end up the same as Yan Tian Zhao, being heavily injured.

"Hmph, the result now is that you can only look up at me!" He didn't respond to the question, as such postulations had no meaning.

Feng Yan revealed a cold expression, raising his foot to trample on Ling Han. He was going to make Ling Han lose face in front of the whole world.

Ling Han reached out to block, but everyone could see how futile that was.

Was a quasi-Earth Grade alchemy master that formed seven flashes of Sword Qi actually going to receive such great humiliation?

The people on the bottom felt unpleasant inside, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chang were even more agitated that they could not forfeit for Ling Han.

Feng Yan sneered, stepping down without hesitation.

Pa , his left foot stepped onto Ling Han's right hand and a strong force like a lofty mountain pushed down on it, trampling down towards Ling Han's face. However, at this moment, Feng Yan's expression changed drastically as he let out a tragic scream that

shook heaven and earth.

What the hell was he screaming for? He clearly had a huge advantage, yet he still wanted to trick people?

No!

Everyone saw clearly that Feng Yan's left leg was eroding, as if it was made of mist, dispersing from a puff.

What was going on?

Ling Han revealed a proud smile. He refined Asura Demon Emperor's Demonic Qi and formed a black-colored demonic seal on his palm afterwards. This was the Power of Regulation, extremely scary.

Although the power was strong, it could only adhere to the palm's surface, so normally it had almost no use. However, Feng Yan actually stepped on him, seeking pain for himself.

"Ah!" Feng Yan cried out sharply, cutting off his own left leg; otherwise, the erosion would continue to spread until his entire person was turned into dust.

Pa , he abruptly sat onto the ground. The problem wasn't just a leg, but also a terrifying wave of power that penetrated inside his body, roiling and making him extremely unwell. Even enduring the urge to scream was already extremely difficult, let alone fighting.

Now, of the four of them, none were still standing.

Who would've thought that the scene would play out in this way —everyone stared blankly, absolutely unable to accept what happened.

Xiu, xiu, xiu, xiu , those who originally were knocked down the mountain came running back one after another. The formidable ones were hurt, and the ones unconscious lay unconscious, was it not precisely their chance?

Ling Han stood up; he wasn't hurt, just drained of Origin Power. Now, he naturally recovered a little, and was able to stand and run without any problem at all.

He took large strides, and was already before the Rain Emperor "The victor of this time's battle is Ling Han!" Rain Emperor imposing filled voice sounded, shaking the skies.

Chapter 277: A Formidable Flower Blossom Tier Appears

It ended, and Ling Han obtained the final victory.

No one could have anticipated that Hu Niu had such surprising speed; if she won the first prize, everyone would've been shocked, but it would still be acceptable; but, Ling Han? He actually defeated Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, something no one thought possible.

One strike to defeat Yan Tian Zhao, and one palm to cripple Feng Yan, completely like a dream.

Rain Emperor looked at Ling Han with a calm and tranquil expression, but no one knew of the raging turbulent waves in his heart.

Today, the performances of these four youngsters were beyond what he anticipated, even unwilling to think about it. In all honesty, of the four, Feng Yan was the most normal with two physiques, and the other three were freaks.

Yan Tian Zhao's "green mist" and recovery speed, Hu Niu's speed, and Ling Han's last sword art and the eerie palm at the end baffled even Rain Emperor.

"Take it!" Rain Emperor took out a box from thin air, handing it to Ling Han.

A spatial ring.

Ling Han was a bit astounded. He'd originally thought that Rain Country couldn't possibly have spatial rings, but unexpectedly, Rain Emperor had such a treasure. However, thinking again, since a Mystical Power like the Eye of Truth appeared in the country's treasury, then acquiring a spatial ring occasionally wasn't so rare.

He took the box. This thing wasn't big, but it wasn't easy to put

into his pockets, so he had to hold it in his hands.

...Rain Emperor could expose his possession of a spatial ring, but Ling Han wouldn't dare. He was too weak right now after all; besides, he wasn't wearing the ring on his hand, but put it away in the Black Tower.

"Huh?" Rain Emperor was slightly startled for a moment, looking afar.

Ling Han also immediately felt a strong presence, and followed Rain emperor's gaze.

A cloud floated from afar, but the bizarre thing was that the cloud was actually pink, and it was extremely fast. However, a bit closer, a man could be seen on top of the cloud.

This was a seventy-year-old man, who was slender with black hair, wearing a long robe, and appearing very sage-like.

A man? Flying in the sky?

'Hiss!'

When the other people saw, they all revealed a shocked expression one after another.

How could a mortal fly in the sky?

The Flower Blossom Tier!

This old man was at the Flower Blossom Tier, that was why he could fly in the sky with his physical body, transcending the mortals.

When the old man came right above, an endless pressure circulated that made everyone feel minuteness from the bottom of their hearts, only wanting to knee in worship.

The old man's gaze swiped once on Feng Yan's body as his expression immediately turned gloomy, and he said, "Such great nerve, daring to harm a disciple of the Winter Moon Sect! Rain Emperor, give this old man an explanation!"

He stared at Rain Emperor, towering above and showing dominance.

A Flower Blossom Tier martial artist certainly was qualified to act haughtily.

Rain Emperor didn't buy it at all. He raised his head awe-inspiringly, threw out a punch, and said, "In front of me, you dare tower above?"

Hong , a golden fist came down from the sky, smashing towards the Flower Blossom Tier old man.

"Impudence!" The old man blew his top—a mere Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator actually dared to take initiative to attack him, truly amusing and ridiculous. However, when the punch came hurling, he didn't dare to let it hit him, raising a hand to press towards the sky.

A spread of pink-colored mist dispersed, turning into millions of birds that pecked at the golden fist.

"Huh?!" the old man immediately cried out in surprise, for this golden fist was strong enough that it actually shattered each and every one of the birds and continued to hurl down with an unstoppable state.

Peng!

The old man was forced to throw out another palm to parry the golden fist, but his body was instantly struck down, falling onto the ground.

The golden fist shattered at last, but the old man already fell onto the ground. On the contrary, Rain Emperor sat on top of the small hill.

The first round of the confrontation was over—Rain Emperor came out on top!

"Hiss," everyone cried out in surprise. Today, shocking things

happened one after another. Wasn't the Rain Emperor at the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, how could he restrain someone in the Flower Blossom Tier? The emissaries of the eight nations were all frightened and uneasy—was Rain Country going to have a second formidable practitioner in the Flower Blossom Tier?

The Flower Blossom Tier old man stood upright and unafraid. It wasn't that he was weaker—he underestimated Rain Emperor, resulting in him being struck down by a punch. No matter how careless, he was still someone in the Flower Blossom Tier, and those below the Flower Blossom Tier were mortals. He could offhandedly kill a warrior int he Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so how could he have been struck down?

His name was He Zheng Chu, he was sent by the Winter Moon Sect's Spiritual Infant Tier warrior to give Feng Yan some prestige and bring him back. Thus, he planned on appearing when Feng Yan won the competition, making Feng Yan who was on top of the younger generation look even more impressive.

It never occurred to him that Rain Emperor would actually announce another person as the champion of this competition. He was confused, so he came to investigate—only to find that Feng Yan was actually crippled, losing one leg.

This naturally made him furious, but before he had even acted out, he was struck down to the ground by a fist, causing him to be slightly muddled.

He Zheng Chu raised his head to look at Rain Emperor, frowned, and said, "You're only half a step into the Flower Blossom, how could you possibly have such battle prowess?"

"You don't need to know." Rain Emperor remained domineering.

He Zheng Chu couldn't understand. He naturally knew that the power of the nation could raise one's strength, but was it so exaggerated? When he was younger, he'd adventured in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North when he was young, sparring with a

few former emperors with the power of the nation—it certainly raised their battle prowess, but only a few stars; it was never as exaggerated as exceeding the mortal men.

This generation's Rain Emperor seemed to be a bit too powerful.

He Zheng Chu looked at Feng Yan and said, "This child is the sect's Elder Shi's direct disciple, yet he has been crippled. This lord needs an explanation."

"What explanation do you need?" Rain Emperor snorted. "He was hurt in a fair fight everyone witnessed, what explanation does this emperor need to give you? You can take him and leave. If you want revenge, all right. Let him cultivate until he's strong enough to reclaim his glory himself."

He Zheng Chu considered it a bit, and said, "This lord will take the one who committed the crime."

Being able to say this, He Zheng Chu had given Rain Emperor enough face, because the Winter Moon Sect's disciple was still in Rain Country and crippled in front of the Rain Emperor. Yet, he didn't expect Rain Emperor to take associated responsibility—truly unlike the ways of the Winter Moon Sect.

Rain Emperor gave no face at all, and said, "Your ears have problems? This emperor said that it was a fair fight, and Feng Yan can take back his reputation himself."

He Zheng Chu couldn't help but be infuriated, and said, "Rain Emperor, you're not giving this lord any face?"

"On my territory, why should I give you face? Who do you think you are, daring to threaten me?" Rain Emperor said threateningly, his fiery presence as an emperor incomparably domineering.

Everyone's blood boiled. A Flower Blossom Tier warrior was admonished like a dog; Rain Emperor was truly domineering. An emperor like this truly made them admire him from the bottom of their hearts—if they had to sacrifice their lives for him, they

would.

He Zheng Chu was so infuriated that his eyebrows and beard bristled. He said angrily, "Such enormous nerve, looks like Rain Country is going to change an emperor!"

He brazenly attacked.

Chapter 278: Rain Emperor Strikes Again

The Flower Blossom Tier warriors broke away from the mortal body, and each movement they made could make mountains and rivers burst open, being extremely terrifying.

He Zheng Chu attacked in rage, hurling a fist that turned into Roc like a lofty mountain. It flapped its wings towards the hill, blowing up a terrifying strong wind like sabers and swords. Ka ka ka , the hill immediately crumbled.

Rain Emperor swung his sleeve—Ling Han and the other three were swept down the hill while enveloped by a gentle power; although they fell onto the ground, they weren't hurt at all.

"You want to fight? This emperor will fight you till you're content!" The hill already crumbled, but Rain Emperor still stood proudly on the original location of the hilltop, standing in midair and emitting unflinching aggressiveness.

Under the power of the nation, he was only half a step into the Flower Blossom, but already had the full abilities of a Flower Blossom Tier warrior.

"Follow this emperor!" Rain Emperor broke through space, soaring into the sky.

He Zheng Chu naturally wouldn't be terrified, soaring into the sky as well. In a short moment, flashes of brilliance filled the sky, and the terrifying power surge came like the sea tide; the coercive pressure was like a mountain that shocked everyone's heart.

This battle would definitely make countless people lose their will to pursue martial arts, leaving them trembling anxiously in memory of this coercive pressure for the rest of their days; however, some geniuses would definitely overcome the fear in their hearts, crossing into a vaster land.

In the sky, the great battle continued, but no one could see

exactly what the situation was. Even Ling Han couldn't see it at all due to the distance, judging it only with the power surges he felt.

Theoretically, being only half a step in the Flower Blossom Tier, Rain Emperor would definitely not rival He Zhen Chu, but this generation's Rain Emperor was a distinguished genius—with the power of the nation, he had the full power of a Flower Blossom Tier warrior, so it wasn't easy to predict the outcome of the battle.

Besides, Rain Emperor's unparalleled bellicosity allowed him to thoroughly utilize the power of the nation. It could be seen from the Son of Heaven Fist Technique he created just how surprising this Rain Emperor's innate talents were.

Ling Han acknowledged it tacitly. It was no wonder Rain Emperor decided to abdicate so quickly—his target wasn't merely the Flower Blossom Tier, but the Spiritual Infant, or even the Deity Transformation and the Heaven Tiers. Staying on Rain Country's throne, the skies above him would be too small.

Half an hour later, He Zheng Chu and Rain Emperor flew down from the sky at almost the same time. Both of them stood proudly, and it was unclear who had won or lost.

He Zheng Chu stared coldly at Rain Emperor for a long while before he said, "This incident won't be over like this!" He reached out, picked up Feng Yan, and turned to leave. With a few steps, he was already at the horizon, disappearing without a trace.

Everyone felt greatly relieved. It was a Flower Blossom Tier warrior demonstrating his power after all; the pressure was too great, it made everyone lose their breath.

Afterwards, everyone looked at Rain Emperor with an ardent gaze.

Too powerful, he actually forced a Flower Blossom Tier cultivator to leave!

The Winter Moon Sect was a terrifying leviathan in the north

region. If a Flower Blossom Tier warrior ran to the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, even the emperors should tremble in fear and dare not to have a bit of neglect in their reception of them, right?

But, Rain Emperor was powerful and attacked unhesitantly, chasing away He Zheng Chu.

He was worthy of being a country's overlord.

"Long live his majesty! Long live his majesty!" Everyone started shouting like a tidal wave—even the heads of the Eight Great Clans. A powerful cultivator with assertiveness like this made them most willing to entrust him their lives.

Rain Emperor nodded and jumped, flying directly back to the imperial palace. A voice then came, "Ling Han, enter the palace to see this emperor."

Again!

Everyone looked enviously at Ling Han as Rain Emperor very rarely summoned someone for audience alone. However, in the short time of half a month, Ling Han had been continually summoned twice, truly making people envious.

Ling Han remained indifferent to favors. Based on his temperament, it wouldn't be possible to agitate him. He carried Hu Niu, and nodded towards Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, and the others; putting all conversations off after he headed back to his quarters.

He completely had no mood to deal with other people's good wishes. He observed Hu Niu's condition as he walked. Fortunately, Hu Niu had only passed out, and was perhaps injured a little, but she had already recovered for the most part.

This little girl was also a freak.

Ling Han stopped worrying and returned to his quarters at Hu Yang Academy. He put Hu Niu into the Black Tower, then opened the box that contained the Eye of Trurh—there was actually an

eyeball inside.

It seemed to be a human eyeball, but the strange thing was that it was hard as iron and stone. Moreover, a gash ran deep into the eyeball. Looking at the shape, it should've come from an arrow. Apparently, the owner of the eyeball was shot and wounded by an arrow, and when the arrow was pulled out, the eyeball came out along with it.

Ling Han examined closely; on the eyeball was some black extravasated blood, emitting an indistinct aura that made people afraid. However, it was from too long ago, so the presence that remained was but an empty shell, very subtle in its power.

'The eyeball's owner was at least in the Heaven Tier when alive.' Ling Han made his judgment. 'If not for the depth of this wound that destroyed the martial intent within, it should have terrifying powers even now.'

Cultivating the Eye of Truth, one's eye would also be tempered—otherwise, if the eye was struck by a martial artist of the same level, the whole eyeball should've exploded, and not end up with just a hole.'

Ling Han was once a formidable warrior of the Heaven Tier, so he clearly knew the power and limits of this Tier. The eyes were definitely the most fragile part; with the protection of Origin Power, it was still all right, but once that was broken through, the attack would go straight into the brain.

The inheritance of a Mystical Power was a bit special, as it couldn't be formed into words or characters. Normally, it was passed on through the bloodline, from parents to children. If outsiders wanted to learn it, then they could only use one way... for example, the Eye of Truth was fathomed out by directly taking the eye, and Hand of the Black Demon by studying the palm.

Ling Han wasn't in a rush to study it, storing the eyeball inside the Black Tower. He first had to go to the imperial palace.

Rain Emperor summoned him for a meeting; he had to give him face. After all, Rain Emperor forcefully intervened, blocking He Zheng Chu for him... Although he showed his status as a high level Black Grade alchemy master, so He Zheng Chu wouldn't dare go to far, a favor was a favor after all.

Ling Han headed towards the imperial palace. Halfway there, he felt his hand tremble, and a thought rushed forth.

It was Strange Fire.

It 'ate' a part of the Demonic Qi, became full of it and hibernated. It was inactive these few days, but now it finally awoke.

"Yiyaya!" Strange Fire sent him a thought expressing its happiness. Ling Han could feel that Strange Fire was certainly somewhat stronger now. However, it immediately showed its thirst, desiring to devour more Demonic Qi.

"No more, no more!" Ling Han said impatiently, sending the thought through his divine sense as well. Otherwise, if he were speaking to himself, that would make others think he was insane. "I'll get more for you later, but you also have to properly do some work."

"Yiyaya!" Strange Fire flashed, maybe acquiescing or maybe expressing its discontent.

"Put it in the Black Tower, I have a way to increase the fire's power," Small Tower suddenly said.

"Really?" Ling Han said despite himself. Actually, he already knew Tool Spirits couldn't lie... Tool Spirits had the word spirit in their name, but they could never become a living being, so naturally they possessed no concept or ability to lie.

However, what Small Tower said was somewhat surprising, making him feel shocked.

"Really," Small Tower said calmly.

Chapter 279: Plans in Days to Come

Ling Han immediately put the Strange Fire into the Black Tower, only to "see" Strange Fire immediately jump joyously inside. This world was so much larger than the palm that it could only hibernate in.

Small Tower appeared, and with a weng , a flash of light enveloped the Strange Fire.

"Yiyaya!" The Strange Fire wanted to run, but it could only sway continuously, as if in fear.

'Hopefully, Small Tower won't torment it to death,' Ling Han thought to himself. He stopped paying attention to the Strange Fire; ahead, the imperial palace was in sight.

Zai Xiang was already at the imperial palace's large entrance. Seeing Ling Han arrive so slowly, he couldn't help but reveal a shred of discontent and say, "You have the impudence to make his majesty wait so long, such nerve you have!"

Ling Han glared at him and said, "To put blame on me would be for his majesty, what the hell are you yelling for?"

"You..." Zai Xiang glared, looking fierce.

"Don't you, oh you. I'm a high level Black Grade alchemist, even his majesty humbly calls me Grandmaster Ling. You're so arrogant, is it because you think you're more kickass than his majesty? Hehe, you're the one with the nerve, Captain Zai!" Ling Han laughed.

Zai Xiang was momentarily startled. Ling Han was certainly right; a high level Black Grade alchemist was a big boss of alchemy in Rain Country, even the Rain Emperor had to respect Ling Han as a distinguished guest. However, he berated him for the sake of the Rain Emperor, but how come it turned out that he was showing contempt for the Rain Emperor...? Something was definitely

wrong.

He had the utmost talent in martial arts, but lacked extremely in worldly wisdom. Led on by Ling Han, he instantly became confused.

"Since you're rude to me, then I don't have to give you face, either. I'm leaving." Ling Han turned to leave.

"Wait!" Zai Xiang hurriedly chased after him and said, "His majesty wants to see you, you can't leave!"

Ling Han glared at him, simply pretending not to hear.

Zai Xiang finally reacted and said, "Grandmaster Ling, his majesty summons you. Please follow me."

"Be more quick-witted in the future. It's not wrong to put your thoughts on martial arts, but you can't cultivate all day, cultivating yourself into a dolt," Ling Han said casually.

Zai Xiang was so angry the corner of his mouth twitched, but he could only give in, fearing Ling Han would turn to leave again.

Ling Han couldn't help but laugh; it was his second life as a man, could he not control a hothead?

The two arrived once again at Main Heaven Hall. Zai Xiang went to guard the palace door while Ling Han walked in.

Rain Emperor sat on the throne, but this time, there wasn't a Xu Ke Xin leaning by the side of his legs. Presumably, the deal she made with Rain Emperor was concluded, and with the acquirement of ten Foundation Building Pills, she already left the imperial palace, running off to some remote place to cultivate in seclusion; she'd come out again after breaking through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

"In days to come, what are your plans?" Rain Emperor asked directly.

Ling Han pondered, and said, "I should be leaving Rain Country."

"That's right, the Winter Moon Sect is a large sect after all. This emperor can force a Flower Blossom Tier warrior to leave, but next time, if someone in the Spiritual Infant Tier comes, this emperor won't be able to oppose them," Rain Emperor said without any empty boasts like 'even if a person in the Spiritual Infant Tier comes, I'd be able to hold them off'. This however did not whittle down his forcefulness.

Rain Emperor paused, and then said, "This Emperor will soon abdicate. The seventh one has unyielding integrity, but his strength is ultimately too weak."

Ling Han nodded; no matter how hard the neck of the Seventh Prince was, his cultivation of the Element Gathering Tier was a shortcoming. Even with the grasp the power of the nation, he'd still bend before someone in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Although Rain Country still had a Flower Blossom Tier warrior overseeing things, it could be seen from their consistent low profile that they wouldn't intervene unless it was a crucial moment when the country was in peril.

If Rain Emperor abdicated and the Winter Moon Sect came again to demand they hand over a person, the Seventh Prince definitely wouldn't be able bear such pressure... this wasn't an issue of whether he conceded or not; martial arts looked at whose fist was the biggest, and Rain Emperor used his strength to expel He Zheng Chu.

"I plan on taking a stroll at the Star Brilliance Palace Hall and get an Earth Grade alchemy master certification to play with," he said.

Across the vast lands, probably only Ling Han had the qualifications to say 'get an Earth Grade alchemy master certification to play with.' Even in a place like the north region, Earth Grade alchemy masters were prestigious beings—anyone needed to call them master.

However, for a Grandmaster of alchemy, an Earth Grade alchemy

master certificate truly was child's play, too easy.

He now crossed into the Gushing Spring Tier, and was not far from the Spiritual Ocean Tier. The Strange Fire's power increased quite a bit, becoming more than capable of refining Earth Grade medicinal pills; with an Earth Grade alchemy master certificate as a protective talisman, there wouldn't be as many people who would dare lay their hands on him in the open.

...As for covertly, it would be hard to say. If one was assassinated, the background didn't matter—even if you were the son of someone in the Shattering Void Tier, so what?

Rain Emperor laughed and said, "You can leave at ease. This emperor will take care of Da Yuan King, and protect The Ling Family in your stead. You will always be Rain Country's man; this emperor will make sure you have no lingering anxieties."

"Thank you, your majesty!" Ling Han saluted with hands folded. This personal favor he certainly needed; otherwise, he could only move Ling Don Xing and the rest into the Black Tower.

Rain Emperor gave him face not because Rain Emperor had to, but because as an emperor of men, he needed to consider Rain Country as a whole. An Earth Grade alchemy master... not to mention whether or not Ling Han would refine medicinal pills for Rain Country, the reputation alone would attract countless alchemy masters' pilgrimage.

It could be seen that hereafter, Rain Country's strength would prosper and be the best of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North.

"If the Winter Moon Sect sends someone over, they'd get here in ten days at the fastest," Rain Emperor reminded.

Ling Han nodded and said, "In five days, I will set out."

"Very well then!" Rain Emperor revealed a smile. "Your accomplishments in alchemy surprise this emperor, and even your talents in martial arts shock this emperor. Live well, and perhaps,

tens of years later, this emperor will see a rising star appear on the stage of the vast lands, shining and stunning the world.

Ling Han snickered. That was inevitable, even if he were an idiot at martial arts, he would still become a dazzling star based on his status as a Grandmaster of alchemy in his previous life. He also thought highly of Rain Emperor for letting go of the throne. After Rain Emperor left the Rain Country, he would lose the power of the nation, but he would also be able to focus his thoughts completely on martial arts.

He was an exceptional martial arts talent and his accomplishments in the future could be extremely shocking.

Honestly, he even had the thought of taking him as disciple, but if he were to say it aloud, he would definitely be smashed to death.

"Go!" Rain Emperor summoned him to have him leave Rain Country, so since Ling Han already had such plans, there naturally was nothing more to say.

Ling Han left the imperial palace, heading back to Hu Yang Academy. There were still five days, he had to make arrangements; he was naturally going to offer to take along Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, and the others.

Zhu Wu Jiu and Guang Yuan had no objections, willing to leave Rain Country with Ling Han. They had nothing that would make them reluctant to leave, but Jin Wu Ji and Li Hao couldn't let go of their families and loved ones, politely declining Ling Han's invitation.

Ling Han didn't force them; everyone had their own goals.

Contrariwise, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were awfully desperate—they followed him unequivocally.

Chapter 280: Returning to the Gray Cloud Town

Rain Emperor was swift in his decision, issuing an imperial decree to pass the throne to the Seventh Prince. As for the Eldest Prince and the Third Prince, they were relocated to the border garrisons, and their lands were taken back; it was obvious that they were going to die of old age outside the walls, never to return to the Imperial Capital in this lifetime.

This suited Rain Emperor's assertiveness; even if it were his own son, he'd either not intervene or go all out.

The Eldest Prince and Third Prince thus withdrew from the Rain Country's political stage. No matter how overwhelmingly influential they were before, in front of the emperor's power, they were so fragile that they no power to retaliate—they couldn't even bargain or find a quiet place to grow old.

However, this guaranteed that the emperor's power was smoothly passed on. Without the Eldest Prince and the Third Prince to incite trouble, the Seventh Prince's claim to the throne was naturally as steady as Mount Tai. Besides, with Rain Emperor's previous forceful intervention, which implanted an invincible impression of him in the Eight Great Clans' minds, even if the Seventh Prince was still young with cultivation merely in the Element Gathering Tier, who would dare look down on him?

...Rain Emperor was a fierce man who dared to punch the Winter Moon Sect's Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator, and even compelled a Flower Blossom Tier warrior to leave!

Actually, most of the people didn't wish for Rain Emperor to abdicate—after all, Rain Emperor just demonstrated his domineering power. In everyone's mind, he was like a god; but who could sway the thoughts of such an overlord?

The rise of the new emperor was set ten days later, but Ling Han couldn't wait until that day. After he completely settled the leftover matters in the Imperial City, he set out to return to Gray Cloud Town.

Heading to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall was a decision he carefully deliberated over, because in order to repair Ling Dong Xing's Spirit Base, the Rain Country simply didn't have the last three main medicinal ingredients!

Only after setting sights on a place so vast like the whole North Region could he obtain the remaining three main medicinal ingredients. Those were ingredients used to concoct a middle level Earth Grade medicine after all; even an affluent sect like the Winter Moon Sect would view them as treasures.

Those who accompanied him were Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, Can Ye, Liu Yu Tong, Li Si Chan, Zhu He Xin, and Qi Zhan Tai; Hu Niu had already woken up like nothing ever happened, alive and kicking and too full of vigor.

As expected, she could eat and sleep, and take a beating—a small beast she was.

"Niu's not a small beast, Niu's a small fairy!" Hu Niu giggled and kissed Ling Han on the cheek, making Li Si Chan and Liu Yu tong's beautiful faces turn green.

After experiencing the forced marriage, Liu Yu Tong was completely disillusioned with her family, single-mindedly following her "master." Li Si Chan's reasons were much grander: to learn alchemy from Ling Han. Her comprehension of alchemy was certainly decent, and that was why Ling Han didn't object to her following him.

Can Ye's reason was even simpler... He complied with the promise to follow Ling Han until the day he could defeat Ling Han.

Zhu He Xin heard Ling Han was headed to the Star Brilliance

Hall, so he naturally groveled along. To speak of the many alchemy masters, his relationship with Ling Han was still the tightest, since the bond was formed when Ling Han was the weakest and this friendship was much deeper than that with others.

Thus, Ling Han wouldn't mind giving pointers to the old man, except Zhu He Xin's talents were limited and high level Black Grade alchemy master was the most he could become. Despite the fact, Zhu He Xing was still awfully excited; in the Rain Country, that was the title of a Big Boss of alchemy!

Qi Zhan Tai was completely beating around the bush, once saying she would learn alchemy from Ling Han, then saying she was headed to Da Yuan City to visit relatives. Anyways, she followed like a sticky candy, but Ling Han decided that once they arrived at Da Yuan City, he was going to leave her behind; they weren't close, after all.

Five days later, they returned to Da Yuan City. First, they left Qi Zhan Tai with Da Yuan King, who returned early. They then headed to the Gray Cloud Town.

The Ling Family was already rebuilt, and now was the only affluent family in the Gray Cloud Town. However, Ling Dong Xing was not tyrannical in his ways; even though they controlled the entire Gray Cloud Town's business, the Ling Family still left the some crumbs for the small families—everyone got along quite well.

Seeing Ling Han return, Ling Dong Xin was naturally exulted—Da Yuan King returned early, bringing the news that Ling Han became a high level Black Grade alchemist. Therefore, not only was the Ling Family delighted, the entire town created a stir, coming to congratulate one after another.

High level Black Grade alchemist... there were only two of them in the entire Rain Country, and in Da Yuan City, it was most kickass—even Da Yuan King had to give a solemn salute, calling Ling Han grandmaster.

"Good! Good! Good!" Ling Dong Xing was so exited that tears came running out. He already knew his son was not a fish in the pond and traveling to the Imperial Capital would definitely allow him to soar, but never would he have thought his son would soar so fiercely and so high.

He simply hugged Ling Han tightly, patted Ling Han's back continuously, chocked with emotion and unable to speak a word.

For so many years, he had thought his son a waste, making him feel extremely ashamed to have failed his wife. Now, his son was finally soaring, making him feel that even if he died now, he would have the face to see his wife.

Ling han took out food from the Black Tower. Let alone vegetables and fruits, he also took some cows and sheep. After the chef handled it and served it to the table, the smell alone made everyone's eyes fixed on it, almost making them drool.

"It's Niu's!" Hu Niu puckered up niggardly, but she couldn't go against Ling Han, so she just started eating desperately. Her idea was simple—simply put everything in her stomach, that way she wouldn't lose out.

This little girl swept like a whirlwind, quickly destroying the food on her table, then running off to another table to 'begin her great slaughter'. This made all the guests not care about face, fighting over the food desperately.

Ping ping, pang pang , the courtyards was filled with the sounds of chopsticks on plates and chewing. These things were truly too delicious so no one opened their mouth to speak, worrying the they'd get one less bite.

This wasn't a baseless worry as each person was as if they were hungry for three days and three nights; that was truly called having covetous red eyes, wishing to strangle everyone else at the same table so that others would stop eating and let them alone eat to their own content.

It was over, over! Such delicious food couldn't be forgotten once eaten. How could they live without eating it from now on?

Ling Han left the Ling Family many ingredients, since the Black Tower's space was ridiculously large anyways, forming its own world. Not to mention just the Ling Family, even if the entire Rain Country's people were to live in here based off of the vegetables and livestock raised in the Black Tower, it was enough that people wouldn't starve to death.

In these few days, several batches of vegetables in the Black Tower were already harvested and new seeds were sprayed, growing on fields and more fields. Besides, inside the Black Tower, Ling Han was like a god. Reap and sow—he only needed a thought and didn't have to personally do it.

Ling Han still asked Ling Dong Xing's opinion on whether or not he wanted to live in the Black Tower. This way, he could guarantee the Ling Family's absolute safety, but Ling Dong Xing already considered carefully, deciding to remain in Gray Cloud Town.

Here were the Ling Family's roots. More than that, the Ling Family's people bled here—that made Ling Dong Xing even more unwilling to leave, promising to build a better Ling Family.

Ling Han naturally wouldn't force him. He left almost all his silver notes, and then refined large amounts of low-level medicinal pills. With these two things, it would be hard not to be strong even if the Ling Family didn't want to be.

...Money houses were ran by the Rain Country's imperial family. These silver notes were useless paper once out of the Rain Country; who would let you trade for true gold? Therefore, Ling Han only exchanged for a few gold silvers to bring on him, enough to set out.

Moreover, the currency that circulated in the vast lands was not gold silver, but Origin Power Crystals.

Chapter 281: Extracting a Mystical Power

After staying in Gray Cloud Town for three days, Ling Han began his travel.

Ling Han temporarily had no plans to expose the Black Tower, so the party hired two carriages, wobbling on the way as they headed to the border of the Rain Country. The speed wasn't fast, but it was unimportant since Ling Han was not in a rush.

In the party, Ling Han, Liu Yu Tong, Li Si Chan, and Hu Niu were in one carriage, while Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, Can Ye, and Zhu He Xin were in the other. As for why Ling Han sat on the same carriage as the two beauties, Guang Yuan and the others naturally understood.

Actually, they didn't understand at all. Ling Han and the others spent most of their time in the Black Tower. The space there was ten thousand times more comfortable than the carriage.

Ling Han already built a gorgeous residence inside the Black Tower. Similar to the floating palace inside the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, this residence also floated in the air, but wasn't supported by formations—since it was in a separate dimension Ling Han had a complete control of, it was of course no problem to directly erase gravity in a designated area.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chang loved to live in here, making them feel a mistress' secret delight. However, Hu Niu would always pick the right time to break their illusions, reminding them that "Ling Han belongs to Niu."

This space was originally extremely monotonous, but Ling Han rearranged it, creating mountains and rivers in this endless plain. At this moment, he sat by the side of a lake, holding an eyeball.

Trivial matters were resolved; he should begin to cultivate the Eye of Truth.

He pressed the eyeball against his left eye, activating a surge of consciousness that entered the eyeball. Suddenly, blowing up with a bang inside his consciousness, mysterious scenes formed one after another.

This was the Eye of Truth's magical effect.

He "saw" that the Eye of Truth could see through an enemy's weak points, own flaws, labyrinths, thick slab stones, and, in the last scene, he even saw a martial artist's eye shine, obliterating a star in the sky!

He was suddenly startled, and his consciousness left the eyeball like tidal water—everything returned.

This eyeball was definitely from a Heaven Tier warrior's body, but the glowing Eye of Truth that could destroy even a star completely surpassed the Heaven Tier's limits.

In other words, a warrior of the Shattering Void Tier or even the almighty God Tier that cultivated the Eye of Truth could blow up stars with a glance.

This was the true potential of the Eye of Truth!

Ling Han sighed. In his previous life, he lived in his own world, knowing only to refine pills. He completely didn't know the world was actually so vast that it surpassed his imagination.

The Heaven Tier... really wasn't much.

Fortunately, his body was obliterated by the Black Tower, passing through millennia and living once again. This time, he would live an extremely exciting life, battling all the formidable cultivators in the world and trampling over all geniuses.

He pressed the eyeball close again, starting to extract the martial intent within.

This was the only way to acquire Mystical Powers not inherited via his family's bloodline.

The Imperial Family had the eyeball for countless years, yet they couldn't learn the Mystical Power because they didn't have the ability to activate the fragmented martial intent; however, Ling Han was different, he had a shred of the Heaven Tier divine sense

To say the least, he also had the Black Tower, and he was like a god in there.

Hong , inside Ling Han's consciousness, countless lines of fabric shone, forming characters; not one character had meaning, for they weren't written word or patterns.

This was martial intent's manifestation, which couldn't be expressed with language or words, surpassing them. Otherwise, how could a human obtain the Mystical Power a beast possessed?

Ling Han was like a sponge, continuously absorbing this martial intent, understanding and permeating it with his Heaven Tier comprehension.

On his body, several flashes of gemlike light propagated—this was because a Mystical Power's level was high, making heaven and earth resonate.

For now, it took him a day and a night.

Fortunately, he had already said not to call them if they didn't go out, thus the carriage was not disturbed all this time; neither Guang Yuan nor the coachman knocked on the door.

However, it was tough on Guang Yuan and the others, who were addicted to the ingredients Ling Han had prepared before. Now that Ling Han wasn't coming out, they could only eat roadside tavern food, which naturally tasted completely different—the texture was like chewing wax, angering them to the point that they almost smashed the store.

Ling Han let the three girls out so as to avoid attracting suspicions. He stayed in the tower to continue comprehending the Eye of Truth.

Thirteen days later, this eyeball suddenly turned into ash.

Ling Han already acquired the Eye of Truth's legacy, extracting all the martial intent within. Thus, this eyeball naturally could no longer be preserved. Mystical Powers were all like this, only inheritable by one person... or giving birth to more.

'Unfortunately, this eyeball was shot by an arrow, which erased much of the martial intent. I didn't acquire the full inheritance.' Ling Han sighed, appearing extremely regretful.

'The good thing is that this part was the highest level of the inheritance, and I can't unleash it fully now. Besides, when I reach the Shattering Void Tier, or even the God Tier, I might have the chance to acquired the complete Eye of Truth.'

Now, my Eye of Truth should be somewhat refined, right?'

Ling Han opened his right eye, and in his gaze, large stars rushed forth, then exploded one by one. This was very surprising; he focused his eye and looked into the distance, only to find that his eyesight increased by a whole lot. Not only could he see further, but also clearer; regardless of size, the field the view emerged in his consciousness.

Combined with his Heaven Tier divine sense, useless information was discarded, and only the useful details were sent to his consciousness for his reference.

He raised his hand to see that the details of his skin were infinitely enlarged. He could clearly see the pores on his skin, and with a closer look, he could indistinctly see the blood rushing underneath.

However, only a short while later, he felt his eye ache, causing him to hurriedly deactivate the Eye of Truth. His right eye immediately returned to normal; other than the massive increase in vision, there was no other difference.

He revealed a faint smile. The Eye of Truth was already refined,

and only needed to be gradually strengthened afterwards.

'However, activation of the Eye of Truth expends Power of the Soul and not Origin Power, strange.' Ling Han shook his head. In his previous life, he had only heard of Mystical Powers, but never cultivated one. Therefore, he didn't know whether that was unique to the Eye of Truth or if all Mystical Powers were activated through Power of the Soul.

He stopped thinking, and as his figure swayed, he was already outside the Black Tower.

They were almost at the Star Brilliance Palace Hall.

The vast lands were separated into five large regions, which were north, south, east, and west, and middle state.

As the name implies, middle state was situated in the middle of the vast lands and was where martial arts were the most prosperous; then came the four large regions: north, south, east, and west. Out of the four regions, north region's martial arts level was the weakest; a Spiritual Infant Tier warrior could rule the roost unlike the other three regions, where at least a Heaven Tier cultivator kept watch.

The Nine Nations of the Desolate North were in the northernmost part of the vast lands. Outside of the Rain Country, situated north was a no-man's-land, and further ahead was the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, the only connectiong between the Nine Nations of the Desolate North and the north region.

Chapter 282: Fallen Moon Gorge

A palace hall naturally couldn't block the road; in actuality, the Star Brilliance Palace Hall was situated inside a gorge. This gorge was the path that had to be taken from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North to the north region.

This gorge was called the Fallen Moon Gorge. According to legends, this was originally a tall mountain, and the north region ended here. There was no way of crossing it because on top of the mountain a terrifying presence circulated, and even Spiritual Infant Tier cultivators would fall victim to it.

However, an unknown number of years ago, the night sky's moon suddenly fell, chopping the mountaintop into a gorge, and thus it received the name of the Fallen Moon Gorge.

It was precisely this gorge that opened up a road. Some courageous martial artists passed through the gorge to enter the primitive areas. Through continuous battles with beasts, the Nine Nations of the Desolate North were established at last, expanding the north region's territory.

Now, the tall mountain was still insurmountable, so one could only walk through the Fallen Moon Gorge. Therefore, this place was extremely lively. Every day, there were large amounts of martial artists that came from the Nine Nations, wanting to widen their horizons, and some martial artists that returned from the north region, going back to their homes.

Moreover, there were large amounts of merchants that brought specialty products of Nine Nations of the Desolate North to the north region or vice versa; the profits were great, but their endeavor was extremely dangerous because the land outside of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North was a lawless area, where robberies and killings happened at every moment.

From here to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall was only half a day's

travel, but this part of the road was also the most dangerous.

Fortunately, the two carriages belonged to 'Storm Mercenaries,' an extremely strong force in the Fallen Moon Gorge region. Normally speaking, no one would dare get any ideas about a cart with the Storm Mercenaries' flag.

Ling Han carried Hu Niu and sat on top of the carriage. In his previous life, he spent most of his time in the pill refining room, studying; only in his "late years" did he walk outside to venture historic sites, increasing his knowledge.

In this lifetime, he didn't plan on missing out on various extraordinary sights.

At this moment, they already entered the Fallen Moon Gorge. The two sides had steep cliffs that towered like clouds. Ling Han activated the Eye of Truth, but he still couldn't see the mountaintop, yet he could see the vicious Qi that was emitted on the mountain walls.

This presence made even him feel somewhat nervous. In other words, even if he'd come here with the Heaven Tier's strength, he also would have to be very careful; it looked like the legend was not just a legend, having a certain degree of truth to it.

However, what surprised Ling Han was that underneath the gorge were fields of medicinal ingredients, growing very well.

"These medicinal ingredients planted here won't be stolen?" Ling Han asked, feeling it strange.

Guang Yuan stepped up having heard that. "No one dares. These medicinal fields are allotted by the Star Brilliance Palace Hall to farmers to plant. If anyone dared steal medicine, they'd be arrested by the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's order. Bandits don't dare steal, either, because they need medicinal pills too and if those with money won't sell it, what can they do?"

Ling Han couldn't help but laugh; alchemists were certainly a

group that exceeded the norms. It was no wonder alchemists were all proud—no matter how strong a martial artist was, they couldn't do without medicinal pills, naturally feeding the arrogance of alchemy masters.

The carriage advanced slowly, and after a while, suddenly the sound of dispute was heard ahead.

Though Ling Han didn't like meddling in other people's business, he could do nothing about his increased cultivation that strengthened his hearing. Even if he didn't want to hear it, he still did as the voices of dispute drifted here.

"This price is really too low. Not only can we not make money, but also we'll sustain losses!"

"Young Master Fu, show some compassion, and take it as following last year's price."

"Hmph, we want to see Chief Luo. How come the price is lower year after year, how do you expect us farmers to live?"

Ling Han focused his gaze. The Eye of Truth easily penetrated the layers of leaves, only to see a group of roughly one hundred farmers that burned with rage, surrounding three people. These three people were obviously the important and the less important. The former was a twenty-year-old youngster who wore an embroidered gown, looking extremely haughty. The other two were probably errand men that were thirty or so years old, guarding the side of the youngster.

"What does whether you live or not have to do with this young master?" The youngster snorted. "Immediately send the medicinal herbs to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall at this price. In three days, if the medicinal field still has a stalk of medicinal herb left, this master will cut off whomever's dog head!"

"Too unjust!"

"With such a low price, not to mention how busy we'll be this

year, we'll have to sell our sons and daughters to maintain our living!"

"How could you do this, are you trying to hound us to death?"

The farmers cried out successively, each one waving a medicinal hoe, appearing extremely worked up.

The youngster in embroidered clothes sneered, and said, "Oh, you guys have the nerve to actually dare act impudently in front of this young master! Could you want this young master to sortie Star Defense Force, arresting all of you?"

There were many farmers, but each one was a normal person. This youngster was a surprisingly in the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier; it was equivalent to a group of ants surrounding an elephant, completely ineffective.

Yet, this youngster used some Star Defense Force to scare them. It was not a superfluous action, it was intended to scare these farmers into giving their lives to make money for him; otherwise, how could he have such great patience instead of just resorting to murder.

As expected, after the farmers heard the three words 'Star Defense Force', they all involuntarily shivered. Some of them knelt down at once and said, "Young Master Fu, we beg of you, give us a way out!"

"With just this purchase money, we'll really starve to death!"

"Young Master Fu, please!"

Even more people knelt down, kowtowing towards the youngster; amongst them, there was no lack of old and gray-haired men.

"Get lost!" The youngster threw a kick, turning over the person who blocked in front. "Harvest the herbs for this young master, and if these medicinal herbs still haven't been sent to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall three days later, this young master will

dispatch the Star Defense Force, arresting all of you despicable people."

"Young Master Fu, you're really hounding us to death?" There were still several people who hadn't knelt; their eyes were red through and through, staring fiercely at the youngster in embroidered clothes.

The youngster in embroidered clothes wiped his nose and said coldly, "What the hell does it have to do with this young master whether you guys die or not? If you don't take care of business for me, hmph, then this young master will make you wish for death!"

"Remember, three days, just three day's time," he added with an expression full of disgust. In his eyes, these normal people who weren't even in the Body Refining Tier were tools used to make money for him.

If a group died, then just change to another one; making money—him making lots of money—was the most important thing.

Ling Han immediately understood that the Star Brilliance Palace Hall hired these farmers to plant the medicinal herbs. This youngster was in charge of collecting it, but he lowered the purchase price to a point lower than the production costs, naturally making these farmers quit.

This person was truly tyrannical, lowering the price to the point of hounding people to death. To kill the goose that laid the golden egg, wasn't this forcing people to rebel?

"What an unbridled youngster!" Guang Yuan snorted. Based on his Spiritual Ocean Tier's hearing, he naturally heard clearly. He might not pity the farmers, but the feeling of contempt for the youngster's methods still arose within him. After all, someone in the Gushing Spring Tier bullying some normal people only to make a little more money was disgraceful no matter how one looked at it.

"This lord shall see just how amazing he is!" He jumped off the carriage.

Ling Han crossed his hands behind his back and followed behind, while Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan stayed on the carriage. Since Ling Han came forward personally, what incident couldn't be solved?

Chapter 283: Hound to Death

Hu Niu jumped out and leaned on Ling Han's back. Her small face was full of excitement—she hadn't fought for long time, which made her feel uncomfortable.

"Young Master Fu, please! Please!" Seeing the youngster in embroidered clothes about to leave, the farmers chased crawling on their knees one after another; some blocked his front, and two hugged his legs.

The youngster in embroidered clothes instantly revealed an expression of extreme disdain, flicking his legs and sending the two who hugged his legs flying. With a resentful face, he said, "Contemptible things, you dare to touch this young master with dirty hands? Beat them!"

The two servants immediately started to move, rolling up their sleeves. They were about to catch the two that were sent flying.

"Pa! Pa!" A young child ran out and dove onto one of the farmers' body, turning to say, "I won't allow you to beat my pa!"

The two servants halted slightly, but the youngster in embroidered clothes snorted and said, "What, you two can't even win against a child?" This made the two instantly shiver, hurriedly breaking into a run again.

"Brute, not even letting children go!"

"Fight it out with him!"

"We're going to starve to death anyways, why not kill him? A life for a life!"

Hearing what the youngster in embroidered clothing said, the farmers' fierce nature was completely incited; since they weren't given a way out, then other than putting up a desperate fight, what else could they do?

However, in front of someone in the Gushing Spring Tier, no matter how strong their will to fight to the death was, it would be useless.

"Such an arrogant child!" Guang Yuan spoke out in a coldly.

The youngster in embroidered clothing turned and saw Guang Yuan. Filled with ferocity, apparently not a member of a large sect or family, his attire was extremely garish and presence strong. Obviously, the other party was a lone martial artist.

He turned around and said, "Such foolish audacity, actually daring to insult this young master! A mutt from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North that thinks himself strong and able to run amuck in the world? Bullsh!t, let this young master teach you how to be a proper mutt—tuck your tail in!"

"Such a cheap mouth needs a beating!" Guang Yuan snorted, taking large strides forward.

"This young master is Cheng Kai Fu, you dare touch a single—ah!" The youngster in embroidered clothing thought to threaten Guang Yuan a little, but didn't expect to be slapped onto the ground by Guang Yuan; it was so painful that he couldn't continue the words that came after.

Unless the youngster had Ling Han's ability, it was only a given that someone in the Gushing Spring Tier would end up like this when facing an opponent in the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

Seeing this youngster called Cheng Kai Fu slapped to the ground, quite a few farmers instantly started crying out, all of a sudden harboring a favorable impression towards Guang Yuan.

"You actually dare to hit this young master?" Cheng Kai Fu crawled up with a face full of dirt, appearing extremely disorderly. His expression was like that of a cannibal, greatly revealing his viciousness.

Pa , Guang Yuan threw another slap and sent Cheng Kai Fu

sprawling onto the ground again. This was Guang Yuan holding back; otherwise, a Spiritual Infant Tier warrior's attack could have killed him in one hit.

"This lord, please show mercy!" A middle-aged farmer pleaded with Guang Yuan.

Guang Yuan was startled, and then said, "He's hounding you guys to death and you actually plead for him?

"Young master Fu is an important person who won't argue with us," the farmer said. "This lord, please let young master Fu go, we'll plead with young master Fu again. Young master Fu will definitely show magnanimity of an important person, giving us a way out."

This was the standard servant behavior; even having been forced to destruction, they still held an unreal delusion.

It had to be said that there was a big market for such delusions, immediately moving many people. They were just farmers and not warriors, picking up the hoe to fight after being hotheaded all of a sudden; now that they were blown by a cold wind, their courage disappeared without a trace.

"This lord, please let go of young master Fu!" Several farmers knelt down, pleading for Cheng Kai Fu.

Guang Yuan only felt like his chest was about to explode, feeling furious for these people who weren't willing to put up a fight. He let them be, turning around directly to leave—out of sight and out of mind.

"Hahahaha, you know that you're meddling in other people's business now? Cheng Kai Fu climbed up, staring at Guang Yuan's back, and said threateningly, "Still want to leave after hitting this young master? Not so easy!" He pointed at Ling Han and the others, and said, "You're all with him, right? Hehe, this lord has remembered you all!"

Ling Han shook his head and laughed. "Where do you get the sense of superiority, has water gotten inside your brain?"

Hu Niu bared her teeth; she would never let off those who dared to have evil thoughts towards Ling Han.

"Haha, do you know who this young master is— ah!" Cheng Kai Fu wanted to act arrogant for a bit, but he didn't expect Hu Niu to charge over and slap him fiercely on the face, knocking him onto the ground.

He was knocked down once more—this time, by a little girl.

"Damn it! Damn it!" Cheng Kai Fu threw a fit, his eyes so fierce as if he really wanted to kill people.

Pa , Hu Niu threw another slap, and Cheng Kai Fu was naturally slapped to the ground again. In front of Hu Niu, he was only just a dish. This left Can Ye and Guang Yuan speechless; this little girl was truly brutal.

After several slaps, Cheng Kai Fu finally knew how to behave, knowing that these people didn't act following normal rules. His eyes full of hatred, he didn't dare to act arrogant again.

Ling Han drew his sword, its chilling light like water.

Cheng Kai Fu was finally scared, and said with a shiver, "What do you want?" If he died here, how wrong would that be?

"This lord!" The farmers shivered in their boots. If Ling Han attacked and killed Cheng Kai, they couldn't escape the responsibility.

"I'm warning you, my brother is Yan Fei..."

Pu!

Ling Han's hand rose and the sword fell. A gush of blood splattered—Cheng Kai Fu's arm was cut off.

"Ah!" Cheng Kai Fu instantly screamed tragically.

"Shut up!" Ling Han roared, his voice like a sword, shaking him so much that Cheng Kai Fu involuntarily stopped screaming, then looked at Ling Han with fearsome and hateful gaze. "The reason I didn't cut you down is because of these people..." Ling Han pointed at those farmers.

"Follow last year's price to buy the medicinal ingredients. Otherwise, I will find you and cut off your damn head!" he said coldly.

Cheng Kai Fu was so pained that his face twitched, but as it concerned his own life, he chose to lower his head, nodding in a very minute range.

"Heard it or not, answer me loudly!" Ling Han swung his sword.

"I heard!" Cheng Kai Fu yelled loudly, tears flowing out.

"Get lost!" Ling Han put away his sword.

Cheng Kai Fu hurriedly turned to run. The two servants picked up the severed arm that was on the ground, following Cheng Kai Fu. If the arm was immediately reconnected, there was still a possibility it could work.

The farmers looked at Ling Han with a reverent gaze. They suddenly scattered on one command, leaving only a few behind.

"Thank you, Young Master, for helping!" These people knelt down to salute Ling Han; they were still quite sincere and honest.

Chapter 284: Entering the Town

Ling Han didn't blame those who ran. These were truly normal people of the lowest status, without any abilities to fight against oppression, drifting with the tide and hanging by a thread. He gestured to them to stand with his hands, and said, "The one surnamed Cheng, I'll take care of him for you all."

"This young master, young master Fu is from the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, and it's said that he has a high status. You should probably leave at once!" someone exhorted.

"Yes, once, someone said to be very strong had a conflict with young master Fu, but ended up breaking both his legs and running to young master Fu to beg forgiveness."

"I also heard that someone offended young master Fu, and eventually, in order to live, he sent his wife and daughter for young master Fu to abuse for several days, finally escaping this ordeal."

Ling Han couldn't help but laugh, and said, "I somewhat underestimated that guy, actually doing so many evil things!"

The lot of farmers extorted Ling Han to return on the path which he came, but their status was too low, and they only knew that Cheng Kai Fu was doing well in the Star Brilliance Palace Hall—as for what background he had exactly, that was completely unknown to them.

Ling Han naturally wasn't afraid. He was already a high level Black Grade alchemist, and he came here to certify as Earth Grade one; it wasn't like he needed to be afraid of a spoilt younger generation.

Exchanging a few words with the farmers, he returned to the carriage, but the two coachmen refused to carry them further no matter what. After reasoning in every possible way, they got Ling

Han and the others off the carriage, then left as if their butts caught on fire, harnessing the carriage to double back.

"It seems that youngster has some connections." Guang Yuan laughed.

"Coming over to oppress normal people, his connections must be limited, right?" Zhu Wu Jiu interjected. Originally, he had no qualifications to talk to someone in the Spiritual Ocean Tier like this, but everyone mingled together for a long time, plus Guang Yuan was a loose cultivator who didn't stress things such as tier and status.

Ling Han didn't care and said, "Let's go, now we can only continue on foot."

Now it was only half a day's road from the Star Brilliance Palace Hall. The carriage wasn't fast to begin with; it could only save them some strength, so it didn't really matter.

As the party set out, Hu Niu acted like a spoiled child, having Ling Han piggyback her and turning to make faces at Liu Yu Tong and Li Si chan, appearing extremely full of herself. She put her arms intimately around Ling Han's neck, displaying her possessiveness to the fullest.

However, only after a short while of walking, they encountered a wave of bandits that brazenly attacked... but were defeated by Can Ye alone. In the following hour, they actually encountered seven waves of bandits, showing how chaotic the environment here was.

This fully proved that Storm Mercenaries got along here quite well; before, when they were riding on the carriage with the Storm Mercenaries' flag, they didn't encounter a single wave of bandits, but now, bandits came like a tide.

Can Ye never knew to hold back when attacking. In Hu Yang Academy, whenever one sparred with him, someone in the Spiritual Ocean Tier needed to oversee it in case he heavily injured

or killed someone. However, here, who would stop him?

Ling Han had no intention of making Can Ye hold back. This youngster was naturally like a sharp saber, suppressing his viciousness was equivalent to restricting his martial path. Only by being let free would he be able to grow into an exceptionally fierce saber!

Moreover, a bandit needed the awareness of being a bandit, dying served them right.

After killing another three waves of bandits, they scared off the remaining ones, and no one came to look for trouble anymore. Up ahead, a lofty palace appeared before them.

Rather than a hall, it was more like a tower. Its height and width weren't proportionate, but architecturally, this could only be called a hall. The stairs were actually revolving on the outside of the palace hall in an upward spiral, an extremely grand handiwork.

The entire palace was piled up from Star Flower Stones. It wasn't anything special during daytime, but at night, the entire palace hall would emit light like stars—Star Brilliance Palace Hall living up to its name.

However, it was now afternoon, and this palace hadn't displayed its magnificent and spectacular side yet. From afar, it looked like a lofty tower casting a long shadow.

This wasn't the Fallen Moon Gorge's only edifice. The tall palace was surrounded streets that formed a flourishing town.

It was the hub linking the Nine Nations of the Desolate North to the north region. People from all nine nations converged here, including martial artists, merchants, random adventurers, and wanted criminals.

Here, everything was under the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's control. The Star Brilliance Palace Hall was the dictator and the

law here; whoever opposed—kill!

Entering and leaving this town required a fee. In principle, those who stayed in this small town would receive the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's protection—but every three days, they had to either pay the fee again or leave.

Thus, businessmen came and went in haste, and the town's inns' charges weren't lenient either, cheating customers to the point of feeling pain.

Ling Han came to the town's entrance and paid according to the number of people—even Hu Niu was counted. Each person was a hundred silvers for three days, and three days later, if it was discovered that they were still here and didn't pay again, they would be killed without mercy.

It was said that the fees hadn't been as high and allowed people to stay as long as one wanted—as long as one had the money to live in the inns. However, starting from half a year ago, the rules changed; now, cries of complaint were heard everywhere, filled with extreme discontent regarding the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's high-handedness.

But the Star Brilliance Palace Hall represented the Alchemist Society that controlled the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion, and at least half of the medicinal pills in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North were distributed by them. Even if they were domineering, who would dare to oppose them openly?

Ling Han had Guang Yuan pay the entrance fees to the cent. Then, they first found an inn to stay at.

After washing off the fatigue of traveling with a bit of rest, Ling Han brought Zhu He Xin and Hu Niu and headed towards the Star Brilliance Palace Hall... Hu Niu couldn't be dumped, while Zhu Wu Jiu was an alchemist, so he was related.

The town wasn't large, so after ten minutes or so, they arrived at

the Star Brilliance Palace Hall even though they strolled slowly.

Other than being tall, the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's architectural style was rather ordinary. There were only a few dozens of steps—unlike some places with hundreds of steps before reaching the top, filled with the arrogance of towering above.

Pa, pa, pa , a group of people ran out from the large hall. Each one was fierce, startling the people at the entrance and dodging hurriedly to the sides.

The Star Brilliance Palace Hall was the highest authoritative organization of the Alchemist Society in the Nine Nations of The Desolate North—not only Earth Grade alchemy Master were here, but also many high Tier cultivators, all of whom were Alchemist Society's own forces. They couldn't dispatch someone all the time for little things; besides, alchemists' focused on refining pills, and not fighting.

An alchemist's organization, well, maybe they didn't have other things, but they definitely weren't lacking money.

This group of people was the Star Brilliance Palace Halls' hired thugs, but they had a pleasant name called "Star Defense Force." The members of the Star Defense Force naturally belonged to those of lower status, so they were also especially rampant, ramming in their path, extremely like thugs.

Ling Han took a glance and couldn't help but reveal an astounded expression; the leader was Cheng Kai Fu whom he'd seen upon entering; his arm was actually reattached, covered in thick white gauze—malice was written all over his face.

Obviously, after this guy simply reconnected his severed arm, he couldn't wait to bring people out for revenge.

What a truly cheap person; was that lesson earlier not enough?

Chapter 285: Kill

Ling Han naturally wouldn't care; a dignified high level Black Grade alchemist came to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, would he still need to be afraid of anyone?

"You..." Cheng Kai Fu saw Ling Han right away; instantly, all the old grudges and new hatreds welled up in his heart. He wanted to point at Ling Han, but his right arm had just been reconnected, so there was no way he could raise it. He frowned in pain, and was forced to raise his left hand to point it at Ling Han. "Such nerve, this young master was just about to find you, yet you sent yourself to my doorstep!"

Ling Han frowned, and said, "Move your hand, I hate it the most when others point their finger at me."

"Hahahaha, your life will soon be over, why worry about other things?" Cheng Kai Fu snorted, and snapped his fingers—the ten people from the Star Defense Force instantly surrounded Ling Han.

Zhu He Xin was suddenly infuriated, took a step forward, and said, "What are you guys trying to do?"

"Low level Black Grade alchemist?" Cheng Kai Fu looked at Zhu He Xin's silver badge on the chest, revealing a sudden realization. "No wonder you dared to go against this young master, so you have a low level Black Grade alchemist as backup! Pei, but do you know who this young master is?"

Ling Han patted Zhu He Xin on the shoulder, signaling him to let him talk. Ling Han said with a smile, "I truly don't know who the heck you are."

"Hmph, cutting off one of this young master's arm, even with a low level Black Grade alchemist, this young master will still kill you!" Cheng Kai Fu said in a stern voice. He had never received

such great humiliation, not only having his life threatened, but also having an arm severed.

Luckily, he possessed countless high-level medicinal pills that helped reconnect his severed arm; otherwise, he definitely would hate Ling Han to point of annihilating all nine generations.

"Kill! Kill those two!" He pointed at Ling Han and Zhu He Xin; seeing Ling Han piggybacking Hu Niu, he immediately added, "And this damn little girl!"

"Young Master Fu!" Some people in Star Defense Force hesitated; there was a low level Black Grade alchemist after all, and they didn't dare to be rash.

"Hmph, my older brother is a high level Black Grade alchemist, what's to be afraid of!" Cheng Kai Fu said with his head held high.

Ling Han and Zhu He Xin both came to a realization—it was no wonder this guy dared to be so rampant; he had a high level Black Grade alchemist as his older brother.

In the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, a high level Black Grade alchemist was Big Boss of alchemy, certainly very kickass.

However, the only kickass one was his older brother, and not he!

"From the looks of his age, his older brother should be around thirty or so, certainly having some talent," Ling Han said to Zhu He Xin. Although alchemy was like martial arts, the earlier the stage the faster the improvement, but a thirty year-old high level Black Grade alchemist was still extremely shocking.

Zhu He Xin pondered and said, "The one surnamed Cheng... could it be Cheng Fei Jun? He certainly is a genius of alchemy. Based off what this old man knows, he became a low level Black Grade alchemist seven years ago. At that time, he was only twenty-three, and two years ago, he advanced to medium level Black Grade; although it was publicly acknowledged that he definitely could become a high level Black Grade alchemist, he rose in rank in

only two years, truly unexpected."

"A thirty year old high level Black Grade alchemist, its too shocking!" He sighed deeply, then looked at Ling Han, and couldn't help but laugh; in comparison, this guy was even more freakish.

Ling Han immediately guessed, "Cheng Fei Jun probably had nature-defying luck, acquiring a Strange Fire. Otherwise, he definitely couldn't have only become a medium level Black Grade in five years, but advance to high level in two years."

"Young Master Han is right." Zhu He Xing nodded in agreement.

"You, guys!" Cheng Kai Fu stamped his foot in anger; these two people actually started talking on their own and completely ignored him, too infuriating. "Kill! Kill them!"

Seeing the Star Defense Force's people ready for action, Ling Han laughed. "Say, who the hell are you, huh? What gives you the right to order the Star Defense Force? Are you a low level or high level Black Grade alchemist? Old Zhu, you are a genuine low level Black Grade alchemist, so this Star Defense Force should listen to you, right?"

Zhu He Xin then said, "I am Zhu He Xin, and I order you guys to withdraw immediately!"

He was rather imposing, and under his glare and shout, the people of the Star Defense Force involuntarily retreated a few steps. After all, money for their meals was given by alchemists, so they shouldn't turn to bite their masters, right?

"What's there to be proud of. My older brother is Cheng Fei Jun, and if he saw my older brother, he would have to step to the side and call him master!"

Under his urging and shouting, the Star Defense Force took another step forward, on the verge to attack.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "I originally wanted to give you a chance, but since you don't know how to cherish, I'll have to

kill you!" He sighed. He actually wanted to kill this vile young master earlier, but held back for the sake of the farmers who implored him—he didn't want them to suffer from being implicated.

Now that Cheng Kai Fu was seeking his own death, he wouldn't be lenient.

"Kill! Kill! Kill!" Cheng Kai Fu shouted sternly.

The ten people of the Star Defense Force finally attacked Ling Han and Zhu He Xin. However, Zhu He Xing still had the title of a low level Black Grade alchemist, so the Star Defense Force unleashed most of their attacks toward Ling Han.

Hu Niu? Never seeing her fight, who would put such a little girl in their eyes.

They were obviously wrong.

Seeing that they attacked Ling Han, Hu Niu instantly burst with viciousness. Xiu , she pounced out, as if turning into a stream of light. Pa, pa, pa, her claws waved continuously, producing flashes of blood.

Tragic screams resounded successively—the members of the Star Defense Force fell on to the ground one by one, heavily injured by Hu Niu. Luckily, while the little girl's viciousness was still going strong, her killing instinct was greatly diminished; she only attacked heavily without killing them, so these members of the Star Defense Force were still alive.

"W-what!?" Cheng Kai Fu expression was filled with shock and disbelief. He knew that Hu Niu was a bit strong, but it was still largely unexpected that she was strong enough to fight one-vs-ten.

He hurriedly took to his heels. Behind him was the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, and many strong cultivators kept watch inside. A few of them could easily suppress everyone, he just had to ask one randomly. Normally, he couldn't order these people, but now Ling

Han fought at the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's doorstep, so these strong cultivators weren't just going to sit by and watch.

However, as he began to move, he saw a man blocking him.

It was Ling Han.

"Someone like you living in the world is just wasting food, go to hell!" Ling Han's was boiling with murderous intent.

"Hehe, youngster, don't run on such a short fuse, talk it out." An amiable voice called out. A fat ball-like middle-aged man walked out from the large palace hall, actually looking the same in width and height.

"Captain Meng, quickly help me kill him!" Cheng Kai Fu shouted hurriedly.

"Meng Mao Cai?" Zhu He Xin swept a glance and interjected, "This child is not one from the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, since when can he order the Star Defense Force?"

"Master Zhu." The fatty nodded slightly towards Zhu He Xin, and then said with a wry smile, "He is Master Cheng's blood-related younger brother, even I have to give some face. However, I have to give Master Zhu face as well. How about this, everyone put down their sabers and swords, sit down and talk it out—peace breeds well."

Chapter 286: You Have No Right to Command Me

For Meng Mao Cai, he didn't want to offend Zhu He Xin, but wished even less to see Cheng Fei Jun's younger brother die in front of him; Cheng Fei Jun was a high level Black Grade alchemist with the chance to break through to Earth Grade. That was a true Big Boss at the Star Brilliance Palace Hall—if his life were to be made difficult by Cheng Fei Jun, who could he complain to?

So, the best option was to calm the two sides, and as for the results of the negotiations... none of his business!

It couldn't be helped that he had an itch to scratch, hearing the movements he couldn't help but walk outside to see the situation. Never did he think he would get involved in a conflict between two alchemists.

Cheng Kai Fu said self-importantly, "Alright, everyone sit down to talk!" Eventually, his older brother would be drawn out by the disturbance, and with a high level Black Grade alchemist's support... suffice it to say that he sure wanted to see what other tricks Zhu He Xin could pull.

And without Zhu He Xin's protection, then he naturally could do whatever he wanted with Ling Han.

He swore that he would definitely use the most vicious tortures on Ling Han.

"Young Master Han?" Zhu He Xin looked at Ling Han; with Ling Han here, he naturally had no turn in making decisions.

"Hiss!"

Seeing this scene, everyone gasped in astonishment, wondering just who Ling Han was that even a low level Black Grade alchemist had to act according to his mood. One had to know that alchemists were haughty—it was truly rare to see one so submissive.

Ling Han shook his head and said, "There's nothing to say, just slaughter him!"

Cheng Kai Fu shivered out of fright. He wasn't a pig or a sheep, how could one say slaughter and do so?

"Hehe, this friend, can't you give me some face?" Another voice sounded, clear and bright as if it had some sort of magic, making people involuntarily feel as if they were intimate with him.

Shua , everyone's gazes turned toward the end of the steps.

That was a man in his prime, commanding a dignified appearance. Around thirty years old or so, he was at the point where one's vitality was the most vigorous. He was tall but not sturdy; his slender figure gave people a sense of fragility.

However, not a single person dared look down on him.

Because on his chest three silver badges hung awe-inspiringly.

A high level Black Grade alchemist!

"My respects to Master Cheng!" Everyone paid their respects one after another, even Meng Mao Cai half-kneeled as one in the Spiritual Ocean Tier really had no confidence in front of a high level Black Grade alchemist.

Zhu He Xin hesitated a little, but paid obeisance by cupping his hands in case the other party caught his neglect, taking the chance to attack his faults.

Now, only Ling Han and Hu Niu still stood without any intention of paying respects.

"Impudence!" Seeing the situation, someone wanted to boot-lick Cheng Fei Jun, immediately yelling at Ling Han. "Hurry up and kneel, there's no tolerance for your disrespect in front of Master Cheng!"

Ling Han turned to see a mere medium level Yellow Grade alchemist. He paid him no attention, but looked at Cheng Fei Jun

and said, "Why should I give you face?"

"Under these skies, there shouldn't be a person who dares not to give me face," Cheng Fei Jun said indifferently.

Pu!

Ling Han almost spat a laughter, instantly coughing continuously—this big talk truly blew through the skies. However, a mere high level Black Grade alchemist... not to mention Heaven Grade or Earth Grade alchemists, even martial artists in the Heaven Tier and the Deity Transformation Tier had no need to give him any face.

Otherwise, he could kill Feng Yan right away and the Winter Moon Sect would have to give him face, right?

Seeing Ling Han's soundless derision, everyone gasped in astonishment. Who didn't know that Cheng Fei Jun spoiled Cheng Kai Fu to an extreme? No matter what Cheng Kai Fu did, it would be supported.

For example, the town's entrance fee was increased under Cheng Fei Jun's insistence for the sake of Cheng Kai Fu receiving a little bit more money. Moreover, it wasn't as if people didn't know just how fierce Cheng Kai Fu forced the prices down, but compared to the life or death of a few lowly peons, naturally no one wanted to offend a high level Black Grade alchemist.

This made Cheng Kai Fu more and more unbridled, but today... he seemed to have kicked an iron sheet.

"Let go of my brother immediately, or else!" Cheng Fei Jun lost his patience, revealing a threatening expression. Two Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators came forth, each one with grim expressions.

This was the Star Brilliance Palace Halls' strongest force—taking care of a "small problem" from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, it was naturally more than enough.

"Or else what? Kill me?" Ling Han smiled slightly, wiggling his finger. "You have no right to command me, as for threatening me, you have no right as well."

"Stop spouting nonsense, let him go now, and I can be lenient, sparing your life!" Cheng Fei Jun said, holding back his temper. He lost both parents when he was young and lived interdependently with Cheng Kai Fu; thus, his younger brother was his only kin that he pledged to protect with his life.

For Cheng Kai Fu, he wouldn't mind sparing Ling Han's life, but harsh punishment had to be executed.

Ling Han laughed mischievously and said, "Like I said, you have no right to command me!" He flipped out with one hand, taking out a silver badge and placing it on his chest.

'What!?'

Everyone was shocked. This was the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, where there were the most alchemists. Even if they weren't alchemists themselves, having come in contact with alchemists often, they naturally knew what the bronze badge, the silver badge, and the gold badge represented.

One silver badge represented a low level Black Grade alchemist.

How was it possible!

This youngster didn't even look twenty, but had already become a low level Black Grade alchemist; was this a joke? No, no, no, probably because of this, he dared not to give Cheng Fei Jun face.

A genius, a true genius; a teen low level alchemist was definitely a rare sight.

Cheng Fei Jun was also startled. He never would've thought that the other party could reveal such a trump card, making him feel slightly shocked. However, he immediately revealed a cold smile. If Ling Han was not an alchemist, it would've been all right, but once the status of an alchemist was revealed, then Ling Han had to

listen to his orders.

"A low level Black Grade alchemist is certainly out of the ordinary, but in front of me, you can only obey with servility! I order you to immediately let go of my brother! Hmph, you wouldn't be thinking of not respecting a high-level alchemist's orders, right?" he said coldly.

The alchemy world had the same level rigidity. A high level alchemist's order to a low level alchemist was like an imperial edict, definitely not to be disobeyed; otherwise, one would receive all other alchemists' rejection and disdain.

"Like I said, you have no right to command me, what are you yelling for?" Ling Han waved his hands dismissively, appearing extremely impatient.

"Lord Qian, Lord Yang, take down this insolent one!" Cheng Fei Jun said to the two formidable Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators.

"Yes!" The two Spiritual Pedestal Tier's nodded in a reserved manner. They wouldn't go as far to boot-lick Cheng Fei Jun, but since they were hired by the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, they naturally had to do work for Star Brilliance Palace Hall.

Ling Han was only a low level Black Grade alchemist, but he disobeyed Cheng Fei Jun's orders; they certainly had enough reason to intervene.

Seeing the two with intent of intervening, Ling Han laughed mischievously, and flipped his hand, another silver badge was placed on his chest.

Pu!

Quite a few people immediately spat out, two? A medium level Black Grade alchemist? You're freaking joking, right?

A sixteen or seventeen year-old medium level Black Grade alchemist?

'My a*s, this is definitely fake!'

Chapter 287: I am Ling Han

Martial arts and alchemy were the same—they were about spending a long time to advance, aiming for the peak.

Moreover, alchemy had no way of speeding up the process.

There were spirit medicine and spirit fruits in the world—eating a stalk or a piece could increase cultivation and turn one into a formidable cultivator over night. However, there definitely wasn't anything good like that that could make an alchemist's techniques improve greatly in a matter of days.

Even with the Strange Fires' existence that only allowed alchemists at lower tiers to refine higher tier medicinal pills, one still needed enough understanding of alchemy to do so; they couldn't reach the sky in a single bound.

Ling Han wasn't twenty, but he was already a medium level Black Grade alchemist?

This was definitely a joke; if such a genius 's name didn't spread across the world, how could they have not heard of him?

"Hmph, I almost got deceived by you, you actually dare pose as an alchemist. How dare you!" Cheng Fei Jun said threateningly. His younger brother was captured and even had one of his arms severed earlier, making him extremely infuriated.

Ling Han laughed indifferently, pointed at his chest, and said, "Open your filthy eyes and look clearly, is this fake?"

F-filthy eyes?

Everyone's mouth twitched, he actually dared to berate a high level Black Grade alchemist so; this guy was truly extremely daring.

"Youngster, hand over your alchemy master certification for inspection." Qian Xing, one of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors,

spoke to Ling Han.

Badges might be faked, but alchemy master certifications not. On top was complete information, which could be investigated and verified immediately.

Cheng Fei Jun sneered, and said, "So what even if you are a medium level Black Grade alchemist, you still have to listen to my orders!"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk!" Ling Han wiggled his finger and said, "With which ear did you hear me say that I'm a medium level Black Grade alchemist? You're an idiot as expected!" Ignoring Cheng Fei Jun who was already bursting with anger, he took out the third silver badge and placed it on his chest.

Three silver badges, the same as Cheng Fei Jun!

'Impossible!'

Everyone said the same three words inside their minds. There definitely, definitely, definitely existed no such a young high level Black Grade alchemist.

"Ha!" Cheng Fei Jun sneered, already not believing from the point when Ling Han took out the second silver badge.

"Huh!?" Qian and Yang, the two formidable Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivators, were startled momentarily, remembering someone all of a sudden.

"Bullsh!t, you think wearing three silver badges can make you pass as a high level Black Grade alchemist?" The one who boot-licked Cheng Fei Jun earlier immediately jumped out, pointing and shouting sharply at Ling Han.

Ling Han sighed and said, "Haven't I mentioned that I hate it the most when others point at me?"

"Youngster, you're surnamed Ling?" the Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior surnamed Qian suddenly interjected.

"Ling!" Cheng Fei Jun's expression immediately changed as he thought of someone. "Ling Han, you're Ling Han!"

His expression was filled with rage.

Half a year ago, he advanced to high level Black Grade, creating the record in the Desolate North. A thirty year old high level Black Grade alchemist put in a large place like the north region was extraordinary, and very few could surpass him.

However, his complacency was only maintained for several months—very quickly, another young genius came out of nowhere, and became a high level Black Grade alchemist. Moreover, the genius was younger than him, so much younger that he couldn't believe it.

Seventeen!

At first, even several people in the Star Brilliance Palace Hall had doubts about the truth of the matter, let alone him. However, with Fu Yuan Shen's own handwritten letter and many medium level Black Grade alchemists' joint guarantee, people could only believe it.

From that point on, Cheng Fei Jun hated Ling Han for stealing his glory; otherwise, he would've had the glory of being the youngest high level Black Grade alchemist, and how dazzling would that be?

This detestable guy stole his limelight, and today, he ran to his territory, injuring his younger brother and trampling over his face in public?

He definitely wouldn't allow it!

"I am Ling Han." Ling Han took out the crystal that could prove an alchemist's status. Origin Power poured in and instantly formed a curtain of light that clearly wrote Ling Han's alchemy master level, when and where he broke through, as well as the witnesses at the time.

Everyone cried out, because this happened only one or two months ago, and most people still didn't know of Ling Han's existence; they couldn't help but stare blankly at Ling Han.

Too young, so young that people couldn't accept it!

Cheng Fei Jun, a thirty year-old high level Black Grade alchemist, surprised people every time they saw him, sighing deeply for just how young he was, but what about Ling Han?

Seventeen? Eighteen?

My goodness!

"First, let go of my younger brother!" Cheng Fei Jun said, clenching his teeth.

Ling Han laughed lightly, and said, "You say let go and I do so, then what face do I have?

"Ling, Han!" Cheng Fei Jun's eyes burst with flames. "What exactly do you want?

At this moment, Qian and Yang, the two Spiritual Pedstal Tier warriors, sat by and watched. Whether it was Ling Han or Cheng Fei Jun, both were high level Black Grade alchemists, they both had boundless prospects and were equal in status, so it wasn't worthwhile for them to offend either one.

Ling Han laughed. "You finally asked about the main point. This guy has, well, obviously done countless terrible things, but I just arrived, so I'm not clear on just how terrible, nor do I have the effort to investigate. However, it's the truth that this guy tried to kill me, yes, actually thinking of killing an alchemist. That's death penalty, I'm not wrong, right?"

"Hmph, my younger brother didn't know your status, this crime could be forgiven!" Cheng Fei Jun immediately said.

"You say it can be forgiven, so it's forgiven? It's not like you were the one who was threatened by this scum!" Ling Han ridiculed. "No

need to trouble the Star Defense Force. This person conspired to kill an alchemist, I declare immediate execution!"

"You dare! You dare!" Cheng Fei Jun stamped his feet and said sternly, "Ling Han, you're going to make an eternal enemy out of me?"

"Who the hell are you?" Ling Han scorned, his expression full of disdain.

"You, you dare insult me!" Cheng Fei Jun was stamped with fury, the veins on his neck twitching. "I won't lower myself to your level. Hurry up and let go of my brother!"

Ling Han laughed loudly and said, "I discovered that you have quite the comical talent, but unfortunately, I don't appreciate it at all." He shook his hand, and instantly, a long sword appeared from thin air. As a high level Black Grade alchemist, he was already unafraid of people knowing of him having a "spatial ring."

"Older brother, save me! Save me!" Cheng Kai Fu immediately felt Ling Han's threatening killing intent and instantly waved his arms while screaming; however, his arm was just reconnected, it couldn't withstand such intense movement, so with a *pa*, the arm instantly fell from his shoulder, fresh blood gushing out profusely.

Pu, without hearing his cries in pain, Ling Han already struck, slicing open his neck.

Blood gurgled inside Cheng Kai Fu's mouth as it spilled out violently, and he reached out towards Cheng Fei Jun, but his arm only rose halfway before drooping weakly to the ground.

"Brother!" Cheng Fei Jun shouted grimly, eyes bursting with flames. "Ling Han, I swear one of us will die!"

"Ha!" Ling Han shrugged indifferently and said, "I'll make a bet that you'll kneel properly before me later and call me Master Ling."

"Bullsh!t" Cheng Fei Jun spat out—for him to be humiliated as he kneeled before the one who killed his brother? Impossible.

"How about it, want to bet? If you win, I'll give you my Strange Fire, and conversely, you have to give your Strange Fire to me if I win." Ling Han finally spoke of his true motive.

Chapter 288: Bet

Cheng Fei Jun was only at the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. Normally, he would at most be able to refine a medium level Black Grade medicinal pill, but since he could actually become a high level Black Grade alchemist, it meant that he definitely fused with a wisp of Strange Fire, achieving the breakthrough.

Although Ling Han had a ball of Strange Fire, he wouldn't mind letting this wisp of Strange Fire make it even more powerful.

Cheng Fei Jun's gaze was gloomy, and his expression revealed that he was moved.

Ling Han guessed that he possessed the Strange Fire, so Cheng Fei Jun could do it as well since Ling Han's cultivation was even lower—only at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

If Ling Han didn't have this Strange Fire, then would he have the qualifications to be called a high level Black Grade alchemist? When the time came, he only needed to request a reexamination; if Ling Han couldn't refine a high level Black Grade medicinal pill, then he naturally would be stripped of the respective alchemist level.

If Ling Han's alchemist level was inferior, he could think of ways to slowly kill Ling Han.

The hatred of killing his brother made it impossible for them to live under the same sky; Ling Han had to die.

"Okay, I'll take the bet!" He clenched his teeth, there was no way he would believe that something like him kneeling down to pay respects would happen... there was only one possibility, and that was for Ling Han to advance to the Earth Grade.

The question was: was it possible?

"I'll ask a few masters to be notaries," Cheng Fei Jun said again,

afraid that Ling Han would be dishonest after losing.

"Hahaha, I'm also afraid that you'll be dishonest, go ask for them." Ling Han laughed aloud.

Seeing Ling Han so sure, Cheng Fei Jun couldn't help but be a little startled inside—could this guy actually advance into the Earth Grade? Impossible, definitely impossible, a seventeen year old Earth Grade alchemist... that was just dreaming.

Besides, the most important point was that the materials had to be personally prepared in qualifying for alchemists above the Black Grade, and just how precious were Earth Grade materials? He wouldn't believe that Ling Han had prepared materials, because this was obviously a sudden incident.

So, even if Ling Han really had the ability to charge to become an Earth Grade alchemist, without the corresponding materials, what could he possibly do?

With that thought, Cheng Fei Jun recovered his confidence, hurriedly getting Qian Xing, the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, cultivator to request several Earth Grade alchemists take up the matter as notaries.

Originally, two Black Grade alchemists' bet wouldn't possibly startle Earth Grade alchemists, but both of them were too young and thus with endless prospects, almost certain to become Earth Grade alchemists.

Thus, the Earth Grade alchemists were happy to give them face and look on for fun in passing.

There were three Star Brilliance Palace Hall's Earth Grade alchemists, but all were low level Earth Grade... medium and high level Earth Grade alchemists couldn't possibly appear in such a small place like the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. In the entire north region, a single Heaven Grade alchemist couldn't be found.

These three Earth Grade alchemists were Long Yong Zhang, Li Si Yuan, and Yun Xing Xian, and all were in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. "The youngest" one was sixty, but this was still an alchemy prodigy, because he completed the leap into Earth Grade in his fifties; it was very difficult.

Unfortunately, without crossing into the Flower Blossom Tier, his lifespan was limited, so there was probably no hope of him grinding to medium level in this lifetime.

"My respects, three masters!" Seeing these three appear, everyone bowed one after another, even Cheng Fei Jun was no exception.

In the alchemy world, if alchemists were at the same grade—Yellow Grade, Black Grade, Earth Grade, and Heaven Grade—then the lower level one only needed to pay respects by cupping his hands when meeting a higher level colleague of the same grade. However, if it were a Grade's difference, then even a high level Black Grade alchemist needed to pay deepest respects when encountering a low level Earth Grade alchemist; this was the rudimentary etiquette.

Before breaking through to the Earth Grade, even one as arrogant and conceited as Cheng Fei Jun had to be most respectful in front of the the three great alchemists.

Only Ling Han didn't move.

Upon seeing this, Cheng Fei Jun instantly snorted and said, "Ling Han, such nerve you have, daring not to pay respects after seeing the three great alchemists!"

The three alchemists were originally a little bit annoyed, thinking that Ling Han was too conceited and unbridled. Hearing Cheng Fei Jun's words, they naturally were even more displeased with Ling Han; their expressions instantly turned gloomy.

Ling Han looked at Cheng Fei Jun in disdain and said, "Who the hell are you, what the hell does it have to do with you whether I

pay my respects or not? Since you abide by the rules so well, good, you can pay respects for me too."

He paused momentarily, and cupped his hands to pay obeisance to the three alchemists and said, "Three brothers alchemists, I want to take the test for the Earth Grade!"

One stone raised a thousand ripples!

Everyone knew that Ling Han wanted Cheng Fei Jun to kneel and the only way to win the bet was to become an Earth Grade alchemist. However, hearing with their own ears that a seventeen-year-old youngster wanted to become an Earth Grade alchemist made everyone's scalps numb.

A true monster!

Zhe He Xin naturally was full of confidence. Ling Han refined a quasi-Earth Grade Foundation Building Pill while in the Element Gathering Tier, and now advanced into the Gushing Spring Tier—refining a true Earth Grade medicinal pill was definitely not something hard for him. After all, Ling Han refined the Foundation Building Pill with extreme ease at the time, and not only did he form a lot of them, their quality also reached thirteen stars!

This was doable only by Earth Grade alchemists, or even only medium level Earth Grade alchemists.

Naturally, Hu Niu was baring her teeth at the surrounding people, apparently enraged. These guys dared to look hostilely at Ling Han, too detestable!

The three Earth Grade alchemists were greatly shocked; a seventeen year old taking the test for an Earth Grade alchemist, hiss... they instantly felt like they aged.

They couldn't not be impressed, already knowing how young Ling Han was, but witnessing it with their own eyes still made them amazed. This youngster hadn't even lost his juvenility and

his body wasn't completely grown, yet he was already a high level Black Grade alchemist, one step away from crossing into the true line of Big Bosses of alchemy.

Who would've thought that this kid actually spoke shockingly of becoming an Earth Grade alchemist!

No wonder he paid respects like an equal—was it because he was sure he definitely would succeed?

However, taking the test for a high level alchemist was every alchemist's basic right. No one could stop it, so the three alchemy masters looked at each other before Long Yong Zhang said, "Approved! But, you've prepared your own materials?"

When taking the test as an Earth Grade alchemist, the materials definitely should be prepared personally; otherwise, when the furnace exploded, who would bear the losses?

"It's prepared." Ling Han smiled. Those were superfluous words; if it weren't his own materials, then the refined pill had to be given to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, and he would get a bit of compensation at most, which would definitely be a huge loss.

"Then head to the refining room." Li Si Yuan nodded.

The three Earth Grade alchemists took the lead, and the others followed behind.

A smirk appeared at the corner of Cheng Fei Jun's mouth; he didn't believe Ling Han had prepared enough materials, and didn't believe it even more that someone so young had the qualifications to become an Earth Grade alchemist. This was definitely Ling Han's youthful vigor and aggressiveness, wanting to stake it all.

He, was, not, scared!

They soon arrived outside the pill refining room; it was different from normal ones, having transparent walls—however, when one walked in, one would be completely unable to see the situation outside, and wouldn't have to worry about it affecting pill

refinement.

This pill refining room's construction cost was very high; first, it was used to test alchemists, allowing others to witness the process from outside, and second, it was for high level alchemists to perform and showcase pill refinement.

Ling Han walked into the pill refining room without hesitation.

Chapter 289: Stupefaction

Hu Niu wasn't resigned to being left on the side, and insisted on going into the pill refining room. Ling Han didn't mind letting her come in—as long as she didn't help refine the pill, it didn't count as breaking the rules anyways.

Quite a few people immediately shook their heads. Pill refining needed single-hearted devotion, so letting in a little girl inside who later might yell out and cause a slight distraction would definitely cause the furnace to explode.

Refining an Earth Grade medicinal pill, and once it failed... the thought of such a loss made everyone's hearts bleed. However, the one refining the pill was Ling Han and he didn't have any objections, so who would want mind his business?

Only Cheng Fei Jun revealed a smirk; his confidence increased.

"In principle, the pill refining limit is one day and one night, but it can be extended to two days," Yun Xing Xian said. "What medicinal pill do you plan on refining?"

"Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill," Ling Han said, waving his hand in passing as large amounts of medicinal ingredients were laid on the ground.

Since he specially came here to take the test for the Earth Grade, he naturally already prepared all the ingredients. The Rain Country's resources were limited, and it would naturally be impossible to assemble all of them normally, but with his previous trip into the Devil Sky Mystery Realm, he'd obtained several stalks of spirit medicine, planting them in the Black Tower.

After so many days had passed, it just about reached the age it required as an ingredient. Thus, Ling Han matched these spirit medicines and found secondary materials, at last deciding on refining Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill, which was the only Earth

Grade medicinal pill he could refine with the materials he had in hand.

"Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill!" the three alchemists cried out. "That's something that can make the Flower Blossom Tier warriors escape a cultivation deviation crisis, even turning it into fortune, increasing the tier comprehension!"

The other alchemists naturally heard of it too, nodding their heads successively. Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill was a true low level Earth Grade medicinal pill, and its degree of preciousness at this level could rank at the very front.

The three Big Bosses probably didn't have the ability to refine this sort of medicinal pill, right?

Cheng Fei Jun's smirk was even more vibrant. Earlier, seeing that Ling Han actually prepared the materials, he was slightly shocked, but hearing that Ling Han was actually going to refine Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill, he was all too happy.

Was it possible?

Even if these three Bis Bosses refined it, 10% success rate would already be a miracle! A high level medicinal pill like this was packed up with huge volumes of ingredients, and behind each successful pill formation were countless wasted materials.

A mere youngster dared to say he was refining a Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill? Pah!

Not to mention, there was a little girl inside the pill refining room. With a glance, one could tell she wasn't a quiet one; sticking to Ling Han's arms in one moment, then lying on his back the next, and then sitting on his lap—how could one refine pills like this?

You really think you're the god of alchemy, huh.

...Ling Han really was!

"Then will you begin now?" Long Yong Zhang asked Ling Han.

"I'll begin now!" Ling Han nodded, waving his right hand, shutting the pill refining room's door.

Yong Long Zhang nodded towards someone who immediately set a massive hourglass, starting the countdown.

He began to sort the ingredients.

Ling Han immediately began moving. Shua, shua, shua, he was like the moving clouds and flowing water, sorting and stripping away impurities. That strong rhythm gave people an extreme sense of beauty that all but intoxicated the alchemists.

"My goodness, sorting materials could be done like that!"

"I truly lived in vain for so many years!"

"That smoothness probably couldn't be witnessed on those three lords, right?"

"Shh!"

"It makes it completely impossible to believe that this is just a seventeen-year-old youngster."

Everyone cried out, convinced by Ling Han just like that.

That was natural; the Grandmaster of alchemy's handiwork without such an effect instead would be weirder.

Even the three Earth Grade alchemists subconsciously began to stir. They secretly decided that even if Ling Han failed to become an Earth Grade alchemist, they would still take care of him. This youngster was too miraculous, and they definitely wanted to discuss methods on processing ingredients with him.

Only Zhu He Xin revealed a proud expression. 'A bunch of country bumpkins, wait till later, when you all see young master Han extract the medicinal ingredients, maybe even ending up spitting out your tongue from surprise?'

Ling Han very quickly entered the purification phase.

Pu!

Suddenly, dozens of people spurted out, and those who didn't stared agape.

"Do I have blurred vision? How come I see him purifying nine ingredients together?"

"I've also got blurred vision!"

"It's not blurred vision, it's real! He really is purifying nine ingredients together! My goodness, why haven't the medicinal properties been destroyed? Even separated by a crystal wall, I can still be one hundred percent sure that the medicinal properties definitely aren't lost by a single bit."

"A freak! A freak!"

The three alchemy bigshots' faces were twitching. If the sorting of materials was only having strong rhythm, then they were truly shocked now.

So purifying could be done like this?

They were all Earth Grade alchemists, viewing themselves highly, but now they all felt that they were schoolchildren who had just stepped into alchemy, developing new awareness about the basic movements.

They lived in vain for so many years!

Ling Han wouldn't pay attention to everyone's shock; after he completed the purification of each material, he shook his left hand as the Strange Fire came out of the Black Tower, adhering to his hand as a stunning flame lifted.

The formal pill refined began.

He had already crossed into the Gushing Spring Tier, and after so many days had passed, he reached the ninth layer of it; his activation and control of heat were naturally greatly increased, and his endurance of the heat increased by a whole lot.

"Strange Fire!"

"Truly one who's cared for by the heavens!"

"Yes, otherwise no matter how genius he is, under his cultivation's limitations, one in the Gushing Spring Tier can at most refine a medium level Black Grade medicinal pill."

Seeing the Strange Fire, quite a few people's gaze swept towards Cheng Fei Jun. This guy also had a Strange Fire that allowed him to refine high level Black Grade medicinal pill at the Gushing Spring Tier, and thus was crowned with the glory of an alchemy genius.

However, if Ling Han was successful in becoming an Earth Grade alchemist, then based on the promise, Cheng Fei Jun had to give his Strange Fire to Ling Han. As a result, his alchemy level would definitely drop by a level.

Today, one of these two young quasi-alchemy masters was definitely going to fall off the god's altar. The difference was if Ling Han failed, Cheng Fei Jun would be unmoved, but if Ling Han succeeded, then a legend would be created.

A seventeen year old Earth Grade alchemist!

Thinking about it made people's scalps numb.

Hu Niu acted spoiled for a while, but seeing that Ling Han paid no attention to her, she instantly became unhappy, touching her small stomach as she said, "Niu's hungry!"

Ling Han nodded. With his left hand still refining, his right hand casually took out food ingredients prepared in the Black tower, raised a flame, set up a grill, and placed a piece of pork on top, starting to grill it.

"Pu! Pu! Pu!"

Everyone spurted out, and their eyes almost fell out as they gaped.

Are you really pill refining... how come that after refining for a while, you set up a grill? Just how hungry are you?

Chapter 290: Pill Formed

If mentioned, this would definitely shock or even crack people up.

Who would suddenly start a barbecue when refining a pill?

Everyone couldn't get their heads around it all of a sudden; their faces convulsed as if slapped seventeen, eighteen times; they were in a total state of chaos, their view of life and the world collapsed.

The scariest thing was that the pill furnace actually still didn't explode!

That was an Earth Grade medicinal pill!

Naturally, the higher the level of the medicinal pill, the scarier the power it contained. If the control of the heat was just a tiny bit off in carelessness, then it would immediately cause the furnace to explode, forming a terrifying great explosion.

Even an alchemy Big Boss like Long Yong Zhang would definitely not do a single thing for the previous three days before refining an Earth Grade medicinal pill, meditating everyday to calm his mind and adjust his status to most optimal—only then would he begin refining so as to increase the success rate.

But Ling Han?

Not only was a little girl stuck to him, behaving like a spoiled kid, but he also freed up one hand to start a barbecue! People couldn't accept the fact that the furnace hadn't exploded yet even more!

Was this real?

Could it be... as they thought of one possibility, everyone involuntarily shivered and looked towards the three alchemy bigshots. Could it be that Ling Han's ability in alchemy was above these three?

Not only above these three, but also far beyond them. That was

why he did as he pleased, and was so inattentive.

From their perspective, it was an impossibly large task, but from Ling Han's perspective, this was just raising his hands and moving his legs.

The difference! This was the difference!

Everyone was so agitated their scalps went numb, yet they were also so shocked that they wanted to cry.

Today, this scene was enough for them to boast for a lifetime... Hey, hey, hey, have you seen someone who refined an Earth Grade medicinal pill whilst barbequing? I have! Don't you freaking not believe it, when I saw it, I almost pissed myself.

A seventeen-year-old youngster who was so slick with medicinal pills... just thinking of Ling Han's age, did these old guys have the face to see people? They'd really rather die from being run over.

Cheng Fei Jun's arms and legs started to turn cold and his body shivered. My god, what kind of alchemy freak did he encounter!

He had confidence to rush into the Earth Grade in the future, but high level Earth Grade at most would be his limit. However, seeing Ling Han so relaxed with a careless attitude, the only thing that would cause complications for Ling Han as an alchemist was probably the heat limit.

While the heat limit depended upon one's cultivation level, as long as Ling Han advanced into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and at most the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, then he would be able to resolve that problem... an alchemy genius like this could casually refine some pills for one to indulge, breaking through martial arts tier would be easy, wouldn't it?

Moreover, if the Strange Fire in his hand was fused, Ling Han might be able to refine a medium level Earth Grade medicinal pill!

He actually made a bet with such a freak?

'I fell for it! I fell for it! This demon! Demon!'

In the pill refining room, the barbecue was soon ready. Ling Han shared a piece with Hu Niu, and he took one piece to eat.

"Delicious!"

"Yes, not bad."

One adult and one child, eating happily a pig raised on low-level spirit medicine. The deliciousness of the pork was definitely a world-class delicacy, such that, even separated by a layer of crystal wall, the people outside could smell the alluring fragrance, involuntarily swallowing their saliva.

After discovering their own "unseemliness," everyone was both embarrassed and impressed; there was only ever the person refining pill laboriously in the pill refining room, and the people outside eating and drinking, watching at ease.

How come it was now the opposite?

The problem was that Ling Han ate and refined the pill, yet the pill furnace still hadn't exploded.

It turned out refining pills could be this relaxed? Was this really freaking refining an Earth Grade medicinal pill?

Quite a few people felt like they were going crazy, covering their head with both hands; now, their worldview was completely destroyed.

Only after seven hours did Ling Han's expression turn solemn. Xiu, xiu, xiu , in his palm, three different-colored flames burst fiercely, and at the same time, his fingers formed fast and complex finger seals, pressing and pointing on the furnace.

"Three Fire Guide!" The three alchemy bigshots had extensive knowledge as expected, immediately recognizing it. They were so shocked that their old faces lost composure, and their brows and beard twisted.

Ling Han retracted his hand and patted the furnace lightly. With a hum, the furnace lid instantly flew up. Xiu , a crimson red medicinal pill flew out as if it had life, fleeing in the air. However, the pill refining room was blocked in all directions, with no way of escaping.

"An Earth Grade medicinal pill communicates with the natural spirits, escaping soon after it forms!"

"This means..."

"Pill's formed!"

Everyone cried out; only an Earth Grade medicinal pill would fly after coming out of the furnace, this was the clearest evidence, and there was absolutely no need to verify. Now, the question was just how many stars this Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill was.

Hu Niu dove and caught the medicinal pill, grabbing onto it her oily small hands. Looking on, everyone almost cursed at her.

...That was a Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill, and it was invaluable —you grabbing it with dirty hands could destroy the medicinal affect!

"Xixi!" Hu Niu laughed nonstop, because this medicinal pill still wanted to escape her hands and rammed continuously in her little hands, making her find it extremely fun.

Ling Han took out a jade bottle, and after he waited for the medicinal pill's heat to cool down, he let Hu Niu toss it in. The furnace temperature had already subsided and the medicinal pill lost its resonance with heaven and earth, returning to normal.

After all, it wasn't a living being.

Ling Han took the jade bottle, walked out the pill refining room, tossed it at Long Yong Zhang and said, "Will the three of you please verify."

Most of the people's gazes followed the pill bottle, but a few

people looked towards the pill refining room. There was still a chunk of remaining barbecue. However, when they took a glance, they instantly felt so angry as if spouting blood... because it was impossible for Hu Niu to waste food—she held a piece in each hand, eating with great pleasure.

How could this little girl eat so much?

Long Yong Zhang and the other alchemy bigshots began to inspect the Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill. Very soon, they revealed shocked expressions as their brows twitched, staying silent for a long time.

Seeing this, everyone felt strange.

"Three masters, could it be that this Seven Turns Break Crisis pill is a failure?" someone asked.

Long Yong Zhang sighed, and said, "It didn't fail, but... its quality is too high!"

"Thirteen stars, even fourteen stars!" Yun Xing Xian followed.

Pu!

Everyone spat out again.

What, thirteen stars, even fourteen stars? No kidding!

If one wanted to refine a medicinal pill surpassing ten stars, then it had to be a high level alchemist refining a low level medicinal pill. Ling Han was only taking the test for the low level Earth Grade but he refined a medicinal pill that surpassed ten stars—what concept was this?

His true abilities... surpassed low-level Earth Grade!

In other words, if the heat limit was unlocked, he would be able to smoothly refine a medium level Earth Grade medicinal pill.

Kickass!

However, Long Yong Zhang and the other alchemists thought of

even more... because earlier, Ling Han refined and barbequed at the same time, yet was still able to refine a thirteen stars, even fourteen stars medicinal pill—was this doable for a medium level Earth Grade alchemist?

At least high-level Earth Grade... no, no, no, it should be... the Heaven Grade!

Hiss!

Heaven Grade alchemy master—not even one could be found in the entire north region!

Chapter 291: Ousting Strange Fire

What was called having the crowd on its feet? This was.

When everyone looked towards Ling Han again, their gazes had fanaticism, and even the three alchemy bigshots weren't exceptions; they placed the Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill into the jade bottle and reverently returned it to Ling Han, as if looking at a deity.

This was definitely a future king of alchemy who was worth the worship of all alchemists.

Ling Han smiled lightly and said, "I'm now an Earth Grade alchemist, right?"

"Yes, most definitely!" Long Yong Zhang and the other alchemy bigshots nodded repeatedly; he wasn't only an Earth Grade alchemist, but even one who could immediately become a medium level or high level Earth Grade alchemist—utterly kickass.

Ling Han looked towards Cheng Fei Jun whose expression was already ashen, and said with a smile, "Little Cheng, why don't you pay respect to this master?"

Cheng Fei Jun bit his lip to the point of bleeding. Now three Earth Grade alchemists acknowledged Ling Han's status, and under everyone's glare, how could he refuse to acknowledge he lost the bet?

If he knelt down, then his life would be over.

"Hmph, you still haven't gotten the certificate, so if you say you're an Earth Grade alchemist, then you are one?" He acted shameless as expected.

Yong Long Zhang immediately revealed a displeased expression and said, "Cheng Fei Jun, Master Ling just refined a Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill, did you not witness it with your own eyes? Besides, we three can prove it, and you still doubt master Ling's

status. What are you implying?"

Cheng Fei Jun clenched his teeth and said, "No matter what, unless he takes out a certificate of an Earth Grade alchemist, I won't believe it in a million years!"

The Starlight Hall had no right to grant Earth Grade certificates. It had to be reported to north region's Alchemist Society's Headquarters, and after a series of steps, then the alchemist certificate could be issued.

Walking through these procedures had to take a month's time.

Cheng Fei Jun used this fact to stubbornly refuse to admit defeat.

Ling Han laughed slightly and said, "You won't be convinced until you're faced with the grim reality?" Daring to refuse defeat, was Cheng Fei Jun seeking death?

He took large strides toward Cheng Fei Jun.

"What, you want to get rough with me?" Cheng Fei Jun sneered. His abilities in alchemy were inferior to Ling Han's, but in battle prowess, he wouldn't cower; he was at the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier!

Ling Han reached out, grabbing towards Cheng Fei Jun.

"Impudence!" Cheng Fei Jun snorted, and raised his hand to counter.

Pa!

A mere seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier couldn't possibly be Ling Han's opponent, right? As he raised his hand, Ling Han soon suppressed it; he couldn't help but stare wide-eyed with an expression of extreme disbelief.

"Acting shamelessly in front of me, where do you get the confidence?" Peng, peng, peng, peng, Ling Han greeted with a series of normal punches, beating Cheng Fei Jun who screamed repeatedly.

Everyone looked at each other, no one daring to stop the fight.

Ling Han was an Earth Grade alchemist, and was highly likely to surpass Yong Long Zhang and the other two Earth Grade alchemists, becoming a medium level, or even a high level Earth Grade alchemist—who would want to offend him? Moreover, Cheng Fei Jun certainly had terrible gambling manners. He downright lost, but still fought with his back against the wall, completely inviting a beating for himself.

After beating Cheng Fei Jun as if he were a dead dog, Ling Han carried him, smiled at everyone, and said, "I still have some debt to take care of with him, be right back."

Everyone thought that Ling Han wanted to contently punch Cheng Fei Jun, hurriedly nodding their heads that Cheng Fei Jun deserved what he got for going against a great alchemist.

Ling Han carried the unconscious Cheng Fei Jun into a pill refining room. The walls here weren't transparent, and his figure immediately flashed, bringing Cheng Fei Jun into the Black Tower. In this space, he was like a god; stripping away Cheng Fei Jun's Strange Fire was as easy as could be.

As expected, a ball of cyan flame immediately surfaced from within Cheng Fei Jun's body, and Ling Han's Strange Fire immediately revealed its excitement and sent a thought to Ling Han, "Yi ya ya!" It wanted to devour this ball of cyan flame.

Ling Han swung his hand, and a crimson-colored Strange Fire instantly surfaced, diving towards the cyan flame without hesitation.

The two balls of flames instantly started fighting.

This was a battle between the Strange Fires. Whichever won would devour the other, enabling its own growth while the opponent would forever disappear. In a battle like this, Ling Han couldn't interfere even if he were the dictator here.

However, Ling Han's Strange Fire was birthed from a Shattering Void Tier warrior's body, its level was extremely high. Besides, the Black Tower also strengthened it, and its power increased drastically, soon letting it gain the upper hand.

The two balls of Strange Fire started to fuse and the cyan flame began disappearing at a visible rate, while the crimson flame became brighter and brighter.

Ling Han was done. He took Cheng Fei Jun out of the Black Tower, offhandedly throwing him to the side. If it weren't for the Strange Fire, why would he even bother to argue with a nobody? This time, he just happened to need to take the test for the Earth Grade, and receiving a Strange Fire in passing was quite the great bonus.

As he came to the large hall, Yong Long Zhang and the others were already waiting here, and all of them expressed a sign of respect towards Ling Han.

Ling Han thanked them one by one, then brought Hu Niu back to the inn, agreeing to return in a few days.

He had to get the Earth Grade certificate before he left, so he was certainly staying here for a while, but Yong Long Zhan and the other two Earth Grade alchemists promised they would acquire Ling Han's certificate as soon as possible and wouldn't make him wait long.

Zhu He Xin spoke about Ling Han advancing into the Earth Grade to others, instantly making Guang Yuan and the rest stare dumbfounded. It had only been a few days, and Ling Han had advanced into Earth Grade from high level Black Grade—who could believe this?

However, they immediately became excited—following an Earth Grade alchemist, would they still worry about not having medicinal pills to take?

Sigh, they were bound to be medicine decocting pots for other people to envy!

They immediately called for a celebration for Ling Han. However, their true aim was food—Ling Han's fruits, vegetables, and meat were truly too delicious, making them keep thinking about them.

Actually, they didn't even know Ling Han had a vegetable garden that could provide for the entire Rain Country; otherwise, they wouldn't occasionally bring up the request. They assumed that these worldly delicacies were definitely extremely rare.

At night, in the town's north area in a quite courtyard.

Cheng Fei Jun wore complete black and appeared like a thief, knocking on the door three lengthy times and two short times. Creak, the door opened, and a fourteen-to fifteen-year-old boy appeared expressionlessly, making way without saying a word.

Cheng Fei Jun figure shifted and entered into the courtyard, walking in quick steps. With only a few steps, he arrived at the main lobby, where an unprepossessing old man sat and drank tea. At a closer look, one could see that his complexion was strangely pale.

"My respects to Lord Luo!" Cheng Fei Jun hurriedly knelt down to pay respects; his arrogant and rampant attitude already disappeared without a trace

"Ten days one report, why have you come early?" the old man surnamed Luo spoke, his voice hoarse, thoroughly seeping with a thread of eeriness.

At this time, the boy also walked into the main lobby and stood behind the old man. Under the light, the boy's appearance could clearly be seen—a blushed and white face of an indescribable eccentricity... or rather, he put on powder and rouge.

Why would a boy smear powder and rouge over his face?

Chapter 292: Thousand Corpse Sect Reappears

Cheng Fei Jun didn't look a second time, still kneeling on the ground as he said, "This subordinate has made a grave mistake, please punish me Lord Luo!"

"What mistake did you make?" The old man surnamed Luo was still taking his time drinking the tea.

Cheng Fei Jun clenched his teeth and said, "This subordinate's Strange Fire has been taken!"

Pu!

The old man surnamed Luo almost spurted out a mouthful of tea. He stood up abruptly and said sternly, "You do know just how many resources and people it cost this sect to get you that Strange Fire? You do know just how many elders moved out and what it cost them to drive that Strange Fire into you?"

"This subordinate knows, but this subordinate really had no way out!" Cheng Fei Jun said with a lamenting expression.

"What exactly happened, tell this old man from beginning to end, don't hide a sliver." The old man surnamed Luo calmed down.

"Yes! Yes!" Cheng Fei Jun hurriedly spoke about the bet he made with Ling Han, but he naturally watered down Cheng Kai Fu's arrogance, and instead claimed Ling Han had long had his attention on his Strange Fire and schemed against him, resulting in the conflict with Cheng Kai Fu to bait him into making the bet.

The old man surnamed Luo listened quietly without saying a word until Chen Kai Fu finished, then he said, "You're saying that he took your Strange Fire in the short amount of time that you were unconscious?"

"That's right!" Cheng Fei Jun hurriedly nodded. "This

subordinate naturally knows the importance of Strange Fire, which relates to lord sect master's great plan to seize the Star Brilliance Palace Hall in this land. Even if this subordinate were torn limb from limb by five horses, this subordinate would never give away the Strange Fire."

The old man surnamed Luo didn't take the vehement expression at the end to heart; he revealed a contemplative expression, and said, "This person is the same as you, only in the Gushing Spring Tier?"

"Not only is he in the Gushing Spring Tier, but also just at the first layer," Cheng Fei Jun hurriedly added.

"Are you a good-for-nothing? You are at the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, yet you can't even beat one in the first layer, hmpf!" The old man surnamed Luo stared fiercely at Cheng Fei Jun, and then closed his eyes for a while. "According to what you've said, this youngster is extremely strange, actually capable of becoming an Earth Grade alchemist at such a young age."

Cheng Fei Jun's expression was slightly weird, because he said Ling Han advanced into the Earth Grade, but didn't describe the ease with which Ling Han refined the pills... not only did a little girl cause inconvenience, he also barbequed meat on the side—simply heaven-defying.

Ling Han was definitely not a normal low level Earth Grade alchemist. His true level probably shot to high level Earth Grade, and precisely because of this, the three Earth Grade alchemists respected Ling Han like a god.

In the alchemy world, one whose skills were better was superior, garnering the respect of all others.

But if he were to say this, maybe the old man surnamed Luo would think about recruiting Ling Han? How would he take revenge on Ling Han for killing his brother, then?

He had to be selfish.

The old man surnamed Luo knocked lightly on the table and said, "This child not only has surprisingly talent in alchemy, but also has the battle prowess that far surpasses his own Tier. This old man will personally move out to capture this child. Without the Strange Fire, you have no chance to control the Starlight Hall here, and lord sect master's plan can't ever fail in the hands of a junior."

Cheng Fei Jun was exulted. Ling Han also had the Strange Fire, so would that mean he would be able to get two Strange Fires in days to come? His level in alchemy would definitely improve. At this rate, not only could he take revenge for his brother, but he could also personally receive gains, naturally having the best of both worlds.

"Thank you lord!" he hurriedly said.

"Rise." The old man surnamed Luo lifted his hand. "These few days, don't run into conflict with that kid, lest you arouse his vigilance. This old man will act as soon as possible in case of a future hitch."

Cheng Fei Jun finally dared to stand and said, "This subordinate will do as you bid."

"And, this old man received news that many of the younger generation from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North are on the move, planning to go to the Winter Moon Sect to attend their once-in-five years disciple recruitment meeting. There should be many good seedlings from these youngsters, and this old man wants you to think of a way to make them stay. Observe as much as you can, and pick out the most worthy talents. This old man will personally come out and bring them into the sect," the old man surnamed Luo commanded.

"Yes, this subordinate will definitely settle things soundly!" Cheng Fei Jun said respectfully again.

"Go!" The old man surnamed waved his hands dismissively, obvious displeasure on his face.

Cheng Fei Jun didn't dare say anything, hurriedly turning to leave. The child closed the door in passing after he left and returned to the main lobby, still wearing a blank expression.

"The great plan is about to succeed, just waiting for the assassination of Yong Long Zhang and the other two old trolls. With Cheng Fei Jun's prospects, he could control the Starlight Hall and execute lord sect master's plans, releasing the altered medicinal pill with added Corpse Qi, making the nine countries' martial artists refine themselves into corpse soldiers.

These corpse soldiers will first devour countless mortals' flesh and blood, and battle and devour each other, as if breeding venomous insect 1 . At last, the one that is left will be the Corpse King, becoming a strong supportive power for us, the Thousand Corpse Sect.

Damn it, at a time like this a junior actually ran out, obstructing lord sect master's plans!

Hmph, this boy cannot remain. This old man will personally move out tomorrow to take him down, forcing out the Strange Fire! Cheng Fei Jun that good-for-nothing, even having his Strange Fire taken in the Starlight Hall, what a true idiot!

Whatever, this boy named Ling Han already became an Earth Grade alchemist, he needs to be eliminated; otherwise, it will definitely affect lord sect master's plans."

After the old man surnamed Luo finished muttering to himself, he moved his gaze onto the boy on the side. A strange color surfaced in his gaze as he licked his lips like a snake and said, "My darling, the night grows late, we should go to bed."

Hearing those words, the boy immediately revealed a vicious expression. He picked up the old man surnamed Luo, pressed him

onto the table, and said fiercely, "Old b!tch, just watch how I'll f*ck you up!"

The old man surnamed Luo was face full of agitation, and without any resistance, he stuck up his butt—that scene... was so beautiful that none would dare to look!

After a day, Ling Han went to the Starlight Hall; he wanted to research some information.

He wasn't sure about martial arts, but alchemy definitely was an incomplete legacy. The Starlight Hall should have some historic records on alchemy—Ling Han wanted to check them out to see just why was the legacy incomplete and how it happened.

Moreover, he also wanted to know about that Shattering Void Tier warrior, and just what brought on the siege of Jiang Yue Feng and several hundreds of Heaven Tier warriors—just what exactly was hidden behind that event?

Although he hadn't received a certificate, everyone one at the Starlight Hall treated him as an Earth Grade alchemist; he wanted to research the historic materials, and who was going to stop him?

He entered the library building, which had seven massive bookshelves filled with all sorts of information.

Ling Han started to flip through the books, searching for what he wanted.

Very quickly he frowned, because all detailed records of history started from eight thousand years or so ago.

Strange!

Chapter 293: Historic Records

According to the historic records, nine thousand years ago, a calamity befell the vast lands, killing many strong cultivators and resulting in the destruction of martial arts and alchemy legacies. After several hundred years of chaos, the vast lands were finally reconstructed, forming the modern-day layout.

Ling Han saw his own name in the records. In his previous life, he was also known as the Grandmaster of alchemy, innovating the Three Fire Guide technique, which sadly seemed to have been lost.

However, his two disciple's names that learned alchemy from him weren't in the historic records.

Not only them, but also Jiang Yue Feng, and Cheng Rui Jing, the two martial arts disciples were not mentioned, as if they never appeared in this world. Moreover, Ling Han didn't see Sword Emperor and Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden's biographies.

Before, he thought Sword Emperor and Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden were strong, but now thinking about it, their sect masters were probably titans that were terrifyingly shocking... Asura Demon Emperor recognized the Three Styles of Black Origin, and kept crying out Heaven's Sword Sect this and that.

Asura Demon Emperor came from the divine plane, so Heaven's Sword Palace should be a force in the god realm. With a sword art like the Three Styles of Black Origin in the Heaven's Sword Sect, could it be assumed that Heaven's Sword Sect was Heaven's Sword Palace's branch in the vast lands?

If this assumption was correct, then Sword Emperor should have at least found the way to break through to the Shattering Void Tier, even advancing further and ascending to the divine plane.

Then, Sword Emperor should have been a dazzling figure in the world, shining over an entire generation, so how could there not

have been even half a record?

It truly made him unable to understand.

The huge chaos nine thousand years ago, could it have been caused by besieging that Shattering Void Tier warrior by Jiang Yue Feng and the others? However, if Heaven's Sword Sect could communicate with the divine plane, would it have turned out so tragically to the point of using the lives of several hundreds of Heaven Tier warriors for suppression?

Ling Han placed the ancient record down and started rummaging through the geography section, and the layout of different forces.

The strongest in the north region was only the Spiritual Infant Tier, and setting this aside for now, the other three regions—south, east, and west—were slightly stronger, boasting Heaven Tier cultivators; the amount was quite a lot—at least in the open, every city had ten or so such strong cultivators that far surpassed Ling Han's previous life's power.

'Could it be that in my previous life, I was born in the twilight of a martial arts age, so that in the entire world there were only seven Heaven Tier cultivators, and counting in a force like Heaven's Sword Sect, the amount of Heaven Tier warriors couldn't possibly be that many, right?

However, only after several hundred years, martial arts welcomed an explosive prosperous age, and at least several hundred Heaven Tier warriors were born, fight a Shattering Void Tier opponent desperately to death.

And now, another golden age of martial arts has come, with large amounts of Heaven Tier warriors appearing. Could it be... that another massive calamity is coming?'

Ling Han rubbed his nose and continued reading on.

The middle state was the strongest in martial arts ability, and it was said that there were Shattering Void Tier warriors protecting

it!

If it was when Ling Han was just reborn, he would definitely have cried out, 'sh!t, a living Shattering Void Tier warrior actually appeared!'. However, he even saw a living god spirit, so someone in the Shattering Void Tier seemed not to be much.

As to how many Shattering Void Tier warriors were in the middle state, no one knew, but Ling Han found the records of the Heaven's Sword Sect.

This force was one of the strongest sects in the middle state, boasting Shattering Void Tier warriors.

This Heaven's Sword Sect... was it that Heaven's Sword Sect from his previous life?

Ling Han felt that it should be. So, if he could go to the Heaven's Sword Sect to read through the ancient records, then he would definitely be able to find the beginning and end of that chaos nine thousand years ago.

'However, this sect doesn't seem to accept disciples, otherwise I could blend in with the Black Tower's cover, and with Blood Sucking Origin Gold, I could enter any treasure vault and open any lock.'

And, Cloud Phoenix Sect that Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden was in is also erected in the middle state, same goes with Setting Sun Saber Emperor's Absolute Saber Sect.

Yes, after my tier is a bit higher, I must go check out the middle state.'

After Ling Han flipped through for a while, he got up and left.

He solved a few of his doubts, but the unsolved mysteries increased in numbers, making him feel very gloomy.

Ling Han inquired the information on the remaining three ingredients of Restore Spirit Pill, but the Star Brilliance Palace Hall

didn't have them as expected. These three ingredients were all Earth Grade materials, so it was normal for the Star Brilliance Palace Hall not to have them. After all, this was just the headquarters of Heaven's Medicine Pavilion in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North.

It was almost certain that if he went to a large city in the heart of the Desolate North, then the Heaven's Medicine Pavilion there would definitely have those three medicinal ingredients.

Ling Han left the Star Brilliance Palace Hall and walked towards the inn, but he soon felt a shred of unease.

Someone was tailing him!

Ling Han was immediately certain; he had the Heaven Tier divine sense, which was extremely keen. After being stared at a few times, he naturally would feel a reaction.

However, he temporarily didn't know who followed him.

Ling Han remained calm and collected, starting to walk towards a place where there were fewer streams of people. After walking for half an hour, he arrived at a turn and his figure flashed, entering the Black Tower.

Soon after, an old man's figure appeared. He stood next to the corner of the turn, looking afar as his expression revealed a hint of doubt.

He was obviously the old man surnamed Luo from yesterday. Due to the Strange Fire's importance, he started moving on the second day, watching Ling Han's movements to find a chance to make a move.

It originally went well, as Ling Han actually walked towards a place where there were fewer people. It was practically creating a chance for him, but never did he think that this boy would actually vanish after making a turn into the alleyway.

Where'd he run off to?

The old man surnamed Luo revealed a doubtful expression, because he had the confidence that with the cultivation of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, it was impossible for Ling Han to discover him. However, the other party disappeared without a trace, meaning that the other party had already taken notice.

This child was strange as expected, and not to be underestimated.

He circled in place for a long while, wanting to find the secret behind Ling Han's sudden disappearance, but in the end, he could only shake his head, leaping away.

Ling Han didn't appear, but looked at the Strange Fire inside the Black Tower. Now the fusion of the two balls of Strange Fire was nearing the end, and at most, it would be completed in half an hour.

He waited patiently; as expected, without half an hour's time, a crimson flame flew over and spun around him, sending a thought, "Yiyaya."

"Ling, Ling han!" However, after a short while, the Strange Fire suddenly sent another spiritual thought.

Ling Han was surprised, the Strange Fire could actually speak?

No wonder the Strange Fire wanted to devour and merge with other Strange Fires—they became stronger this way in not only the flames' power, but also in intellect.

"Hehe, you can actually speak... then you can't stay in my hand from now on, otherwise my privacy will all be seen by you." Ling Han laughed.

The Strange Fire jumped onto his shoulder, yet it oddly didn't set his clothes on fire; first, it was because the Strange Fire had sufficient control, and second, it was within the Black Tower's space, so Ling Han was in control of everything here. It said, "I want a name too."

"You want a name too?" Ling Han scratched his head, and said,

"Naming isn't my strength, but since there's already Small Tower, you can be called Small Fire."

"Small Fire, I'm Small Fire." Strange Fire didn't seem to mind, and seemed to be extremely happy after receiving a name, starting to jump on Ling Han's shoulder.

Chapter 294: Going Blind

Xiu , at this time, the old man surnamed Luo reappeared in the alleyway. He originally pretended to leave, but was actually ambushing on the side to see if Ling Han used some strange method to temporarily hide; after all, to indescribably escape underneath the eyes of someone in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier... he wouldn't really believe it.

However, he guarded for so long and finally lost patience, thinking that Ling Han truly ran; otherwise, no matter the concealment method, it shouldn't be able to last for so long, right?

He circled around a few more times in the vicinity, leaving at last.

Ling Han nodded—this old man really left this time.

"Niu Niu, help me keep an eye on that old man, and see where he lives," Ling Han said to Hu Niu. The little girl stayed in the Black Tower when she had nothing to do, because when she wanted to eat, she could, and when she wanted to play, she could act spoiled with Ling Han; besides, the space here was large enough for her to play wildly.

Moreover, this little girl also raised a few wolves and some pigs, but they weren't her friends, but her prey.

Hu Niu instantly became interested and pat her small chest as she said, "Leave it to Niu!"

After the little girl went out of the Black Tower, she tailed the old man, while Ling Han returned to the inn.

Even someone in the Spiritual Ocean Tier could only gape at Hu Niu's speed, and she might not necessarily lose out against another at the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so it was safe and there was nothing to worry about. Moreover, who would be suspicious of a five-, six-year-old little girl?

It wouldn't be good for Ling Han to follow, since it might expose Hu Niu. Therefore, he returned to the inn very reassured, leaving the scouting mission to Hu Niu.

In a short while, Hu Niu returned, diving into Ling Han's embrace and saying coyly, "Niu helped Ling Han find where the old man lives."

"Good work!" Ling Han rubbed Hu Niu's head, making her reveal a kitten-like expression, enjoying it greatly.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Chan looked at each other, revealing a worried look. Hu Niu's possessiveness was more intense by the day, and once they approached Ling Han now, the little girl would just hang onto Ling Han and act spoiled shamelessly—anyways, she just wouldn't give them a chance to get close.

Who would've thought, oh, who would've thought that this little girl was their greatest rival.

At night, Ling Han let Hu Niu lead the way, arriving at the northern part of the small town outside the courtyard where the old man surnamed Luo stayed. Of course, they were still very far away; after all, the old man had the cultivation of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

'Let me think, that presence that old man emits gives me a very familiar feeling.' Ling Han propped his chin in his hand. Before when he was inside the Black Tower, observing the old man surnamed Luo, he didn't particularly pay attention, but thinking about it now, the other party's presence was extremely strange.

'Just who was it on that I sensed this before?'

He thought for a while but couldn't remember. Then, patting himself on the head, he said, "That's right, I still have the Eye of Truth!"

The spirit power condensed in the right eye, and instantly, lines of fabric surfaced on the eyeball. In Ling Han's eyes, the

courtyard's walls slowly became transparent, and Xiu, his gaze penetrated them.

Layer after layer, the entire courtyard became transparent, revealing it all in minute details.

"Sh!t!"

However, when he saw the scene inside, Ling Han was instantly so disgusted that he almost puked out the meal from the previous night. He hurriedly retracted the Eye of Truth as the corner of his lips twitched, feeling as if his view on life was breaking down.

He saw the old man surnamed Luo lying on the ground and sticking his butt up while a boy from behind was forcefully... no, just thinking about it once more made him want to puke.

Disgusting, truly freaking disgusting!

Xiu, a figure shot out from the courtyard—it was the old man surnamed Luo.

He was just in the zone, but he suddenly felt a gaze that fixed on him, making him greatly shocked. He hurriedly pulled up his pants and jumped onto the perimeter walls, sweeping his eyes over the surroundings.

Ling Han already brought Hu Niu into the Black Tower, so he naturally couldn't find anything, only thinking that he had blurred vision. He jumped back into the courtyard, and naturally a great battle awaited him there.

"That blinded my freaking eyes!" Ling Han ridiculed. "No, I have to wash it with water, otherwise, I'll have posttraumatic disorder for the rest of my life—how could there be such disgusting deeds?!"

"I must use the Eye of Truth with caution from now on. Such a scene, if seen many times... I'll definitely die young!"

After being disgusted for a while, Ling Han calmed down and thought, 'Strange, why would someone in the Spiritual Pedestal

Tier live in seclusion here? Why follow me? I just arrived here, so it's not possible for me to have offended anyone... there's only Cheng Fei Jun.

Huh, could the two be related in some way? Could it be that Cheng Fei Jun's one of this old man's gigolos?

Pah, pah, pah, that damned old man. No, I must slaughter him, or else that 'lovely' scene will always disgust me!'

Ling Han returned to the inn and gave Zhu Wu Jiu a mission... to monitor Cheng Fei Jun.

Zhu Wu Jiu was able to take revenge on his great enemy after he received Ling Han's support and had been eating Ling Han's medicinal pills and worldly delicacies, so he desperately wanted to serve Ling Han. Seeing Ling Han arrange a mission for him, he naturally went gladly.

"Ling Han, your complexion doesn't look too good," Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both said worriedly. Ling Han's expression now was as if he'd been run over by an old hag several hundred times—it was as dark as it could be.

Ling Han waved his hands dismissively and said, "Don't make me remember it!"

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were baffled. They couldn't possibly think of something that could scare Ling Han to this degree.

Staying at the inn for a couple of days, Ling Han didn't go out at all, and instead worked on his foundation.

He was now in the peak period of the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, having the qualifications to charge into the Spiritual Ocean Tier. But the problem was that his time in the Gushing Spring Tier was too short, and refining Demonic Qi and absorbing the Hundred Poison Jade Ointment rapidly increased his cultivation.

His foundation wasn't completely stable, and if he now broke

through, it would be disadvantageous when he climbed up to the higher tiers hereafter.

Therefore, Ling Han wasn't in a rush to break through, simply continuing to stabilize cultivation and planning to break through after around two months.

A seventeen-year-old warrior in the Spiritual Ocean Tier was still extremely surprising!

Of course, this was already incomparable to Yan Tian Zhao, or the future Hu Niu—the little girl's potential was truly terrifying.

However, the fact that Yan Tian Zhao could possess the cultivation of the Spiritual Ocean Tier should be related to the devouring art he cultivated... Lady Yan taught Yun Shuang Shuang the subordinate mantra of that art, maybe she also cultivated it and had her cultivation devoured by Yan Tian Zhao?

Otherwise, Ling Han couldn't think of another possibility for Yan Tian Zhao to reach the Spiritual Ocean Tier within the short amount of days.

However, after that, Yan Tian Zhao's cultivation improvements should be normal; otherwise, it'd only take him several days to advance into the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, another several days to break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier, and then immediately enter the Shattering Void Tier.

This world was more complicated than Ling Han had thought, and by many folds at that!

Now was the apex of prosperity in martial arts, all sorts of talents frequently appeared, and if one wanted to reach the top, then one would be bound experience countless rivalries and contend with thousands of prodigies.

After yet another several days, Zhu Wu Jiu finally brought news back, saying that Cheng Fei Jun had come into contact with the old man surnamed Luo as expected!

Chapter 295: Two Pieces of News

Ling Han had already utilized the Star Brilliance Palace Hall's power to investigate the old man surnamed Luo; this man's name was Luo Ji Feng, and he came to the town three years ago, keeping a very low profile as if to live in seclusion here.

Since the man didn't cause trouble, Star Brilliance Palace Hall naturally couldn't chase this person out. At first, they monitored for a while, but after such a long time, they were no longer concerned about him.

During this time, Luo Ji Feng would run to the nearby inn to monitor Ling Han. Of course he thought that he was deeply hidden, but he could never hide from Ling Han's divine sense; it was just that Ling Han simply remained calm and collected.

Ling Han remained calm and collected for so many days because he didn't want to give Luo Ji Feng the chance to attack.

...If he dared to attack publicly at the inn, then it was equivalent to going against the Star Brilliance Palace Hall. Ling Han was now an Earth Grade alchemist, and publicly attacking Ling Han would definitely bring on the storming wrath of the Alchemist Society.

At this time, two great events consecutively happened.

First, in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, large amounts of people from the young generation walked out from the country's gates, heading toward the Winter Moon Sect.

Ling Han made some inquiries and found out that the Winter Moon Sect would open its doors to accept disciples every five years. For the younger generation, joining the Winter Moon Sect meant that they had a chance to break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier in the future. Not to mention the young generation flocking like ducks, even the older generations were stirred up, but the Winter Moon Sect only accepted disciples under thirty.

To say the least, even if they couldn't join the Winter Moon Sect, they could still broaden their knowledge—they couldn't always stay foolishly conceited in their countries.

Since the Fallen Moon Gorge was the only way to the north region, large amounts of young martial artists now gathered in the Desolate North. It was said that Cheng Fei Jun personally invited them, organizing a martial arts tea party and discussing martial arts.

For the younger generation, each one arrogantly thought they were the number one in the world, and hearing of this event, they naturally wanted to attend. After all, there would be the younger generation of the Nine Countries, and who wouldn't want to be the best, becoming the number one in the Desolate North?

That would bring them so much fame and face!

On the other hand, Cheng Fei Jun took out a 'Restore Heart Pill' and said that he would give it to the first place of the event as a reward, inciting the passion even more in the youngsters.

The Restore Heart Pill was a holy medicine of healing. It was said that as long as one still had a breath left, they could immediately be healed no matter how heavy their injuries... if not, it could at least keep one alive. For a martial artist, what was more precious than a life-saving medicinal pill?

Thus, for reputation and benefit, many people were naturally attracted.

Secondly, there was suddenly news on the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit, a main ingredient in refining the Restore Spirit Pill that Ling Han persistently searched for.

...The Spirit Treasures Pavilion announced that it was carrying out a large-scale auction, and in the auction, there would be one Blue Scale Demonic Fruit for sale. This was probably also related to the recent gathering of young talents from the Nine Countries, so

there naturally wouldn't be lack of those with money.

According to the legends, this spirit medicine grew with the Blue Scale Beast, a Seventh Tier beast, an equivalent of the Spiritual Infant Tier—the harvesting difficulty was extremely large. The Blue Scale Demonic Fruit was the main ingredient in refining the Nurture Spirit Pill, which could heal martial artists' damaged divine sense; its affects were extremely great.

From the Flower Blossom Tier, martial artists began to comprehend heaven and earth and went on a mental journey into the void, which often gave rise to extremely dangerous mirages such as traveling through hell or battling with a terrifying opponent. This could make martial artists lose themselves and become unable to differentiate between dream and reality.

Getting injured in such a dream, a martial artist's divine sense would be injured heavily. For a martial artist, the essence, Qi, and spirit were equally important; if the divine sense was injured, then it would effect the activation of the spirit base in refining Spiritual Qi, and one's cultivation could become stagnant.

In more severe cases, it could result in regression of cultivation—decrease of one's tier. Therefore, Nurture Spirit Pill which could restore the divine sense became extremely precious.

Right, there was also a Spirit Treasures Pavilion here that was of common origin with the one in the Rain Country. Just like the Heaven Medicine's Pavilion, they opened branch stores everywhere. However, Heaven Medicine's Pavilion sold medicine, while the Spirit Treasures Pavilion was primarily in the auction business.

When Ling Han received news, he immediately took a trip to the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, hoping that the other party could offer a price to sell the Blue Scale Beast Fruit directly; after all, he left all his funds at the Ling Family... bringing it here would be useless anyways, since they simply didn't accept the Rain Country's

currency.

So, he hoped to buy on credit or something, having confidence that his status of the Earth Grade alchemist would prove that returning money definitely wouldn't be a problem.

However, the manager of the Spirit Treasure's Pavilion expressed regret that they never had a precedent of selling internally, and wouldn't start it, either. The wise way was for Ling Han to prepare more funds before the auction began.

Want to buy a spirit medicine above the Fifth Tier? Sorry, silver was of no use; one needed to use something called "Origin Power Crystal."

Origin Power Crystals were also known as Origin Crystals. It wasn't something of nature; it required a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist to extract their own Origin Power and pour it into a special crystal, sealing it with their martial intent. Origin Crystals would then be able to be refined and absorbed by other martial artists to speed up cultivation, even comprehending the martial intent within.

This was a very good supportive cultivation item, and even surpassed most medicinal pills, becoming the favorite amongst martial artists; therefore, it became the common currency in the vast lands.

Of course, different Tier martial artists refined differently valued Origin Power Crystals. The Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors refined the lowest end known as a one star Origin Power Crystal, and one made by a Shattering Void Tier cultivator was naturally of the highest grade, seven stars.

One star Origin Crystal was basically what flowed through the market, and seven stars grade was just like a dream, almost never seen and only appearing in rumors.

After all, which Shattering Void Tier cultivator needed to refine

Origin Crystals to make money?

Ling Han was determined to get the Blue Scale Beast Fruit, but a very realistic problem was placed in front of him... he had no money.

To obtain a spirit fruit like this put up for auction, he inevitably needed large amount of Origin Crystals, but Ling Han didn't even have a single Origin Crystal. Even if he turned to pressure Guang Yuan and worked him like a horse to refine it, the auction began in three days; just how much could be produced in that time?

'Yes, Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill can be put up for auction, but who knows how much Origin Crystals it'll be auctioned for; it's insufficient,' Ling Han pondered, and finally decided to attack from different angles, putting up the Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill for auction and selling the medicinal ingredients planted in the Black Tower.

It was mainly the ginseng and the ganoderma.

These were good things for nourishing Origin Qi and their value increased along with their age. Inside the Black Tower, planting it for a year was equivalent to planting it a thousand years, very easily making thousand-year ginseng and thousand-year ganoderma.

Of course, it had only been two months or so since Ling Han opened the Black Tower, so he couldn't have a thousand-year old one; however, a hundred-year ginseng and a hundred-year ganderma were definitely hot consumer goods he didn't have to worry about not being able to sell.

Things that nourished the body and the Origin were loved by everyone. Not to mention those of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier and the Spiritual Infant Tier, even the Shattering Void Tier warriors wouldn't mind eating it often. For example, who could resist a gingseng pheasant stew, something both delicious and nourishing?

Ling Han didn't know how many acres of ginseng and ganoderma he planted, so he didn't care about taking a few acres' worth of them to sell.

Because he didn't want to expose the secret of the Black Tower, Ling Han planned to first return to dig up the ginseng and ganoderma, process it, then take it out; otherwise, if it was directly thrown out of fresh mud, then it would truly cause people's suspicions.

...A spatial tool that could take in living things? F*ck, maybe even a warrior of the Shattering Void Tier would be interested, and at that time even the title of an Earth Grade alchemist couldn't possibly protect him.

Chapter 296: Gathered Together at the Small Town

However, just as Ling Han returned to the inn, he met a few old friends.

Qi Yong Ye, Baili Teng Yun, Li Dong Yue, and the later generation of the Eight Great Clans of the Imperial City like Zhao Huan, Qian Wu Yong, Huang Wei Ze, and so on and so forth; these people were basically the future cornerstone of the Rain Country in another thirty years.

They all heard Ling Han became an Earth Grade alchemist, and after making some inquiries, they found out that Ling Han lived here and came over for a visit.

An Earth Grade alchemist, too kick*ss, a first for the Rain Country!

Even if Rain Emperor came personally, he would only be on equal footing as Ling Han; even those slightly weaker emperors would have to boot-lick Ling Han.

Since that was so and these youngsters knew that Ling Han was here, they didn't dare not to pay a visit and extend their greetings. Furthermore, to form a relationship with a super alchemist like this would truly be beneficial.

"Master Ling!" Qi Yong Ye and the others smiled, not daring to call Ling Han by name.

Ling Han didn't care; his own friends naturally didn't need to be treated as strangers, but Qi Yong Ye and Baili Teng Yun didn't pass his test. They were only acquaintances, so Ling Han didn't care whatever they called him.

However, Ling Han wouldn't be petty, either, as he took out the fruits and vegetables and the meat he grew inside the Black Tower to receive them. There were several low tier beasts inside, but for

receiving acquaintances, normal meat was enough.

In a short moment, everyone ate plate after plate, and the scene went out of control as the other people inside the inn thought they were about to fight, almost running off to call the people of Star Brilliance Palace Hall.

After a sumptuous meal, as martial artists, everyone couldn't help but be curious.

"Can Ye, you actually reached the ninth layer of the Gushing spring Tier!" Zhao Huan looked at Can Ye somewhat surprised. Before this, he was always firmly on top of the other in cultivation; now he just broke through to the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but Can Ye skyrocketed to the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, so how could that not have greatly surprised him.

"Huh?"

"Hm?"

"Ah!"

Qian Wu Yong and the others cried out one after another. The arduousness of the path of martial arts was taken one step and one footprint at a time. Certainly, the lower the tier, the more likely it was possible for skyrocketing to happen, but as cultivation was higher, the advancement became slower, like climbing a tall mountain; at first one could sprint, but reaching halfway up, one would be gasping for breath, needing to rest after a few steps.

Can Ye's advancement speed completely surpassed their expectations.

Can Ye kept silent, cold as usual, lightly rubbing the blade handle. In his eyes, no person was more important than the saber.

Everyone was just momentarily shocked, but immediately came to a realization.

Don't forget, Can Ye now followed an Earth Grade alchemist!

With an Earth Grade alchemist chucking medicinal pills, could cultivation advancement not be fast? In reality, Can Ye also possessed the qualifications to charge to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but he and Ling Han were the same—having increased their cultivation with medicinal pills, they had to first stabilize their tiers.

Blindly pursuing a higher tier was only pulling up a seedling in mistaken hope of helping it grow; the repercussions would soon appear, like the situation of stars of battle prowess unable to keep up with one's tier—how was that different from being a disabled person?

"Can Ye, fight me!" Zhao Huan challenged him. Before, he could always firmly suppress Can Ye, but now the other party's tier surpassed his instead. He wanted to fight even more to prove that he was truly the strongest talent in the Imperial City.

...Can Ye, Yan Tian Zhao, and Feng Yan, those freaks were out of consideration.

Can Ye didn't take the fight, but shook his head and said, "You cannot match me, one strike and you'd be cut down by me!"

Zhao Huan couldn't help but get angry. However, with Ling Han at the scene, he couldn't lose his temper. He simply snorted and said, "Two days later would be the martial arts tea party, I hope that when the time comes, you won't be stingy and refuse to take on a fight."

Can Ye stayed silent for a short while, then pointed at Ling Han and said, "I am not the one you should surpass, he is."

Everyone was instantly speechless.

Who didn't know Ling Han's freakishness, defeating Yan Tian Zhao with one strike and crippling Feng Yan with one palm? He was simply a monster! Besides, this monster was also a Big Boss of

alchemy, so who dared to challenge him? No matter if one won or lost, neither would be good.

"Master Ling, will you also attend the martial arts tea party three days later?" Qi Yong Ye asked.

Ling Han pondered, and said, "Might as well take a look."

"If Master Ling attends, then we can only step aside." Qiang Wu Yong laughed, boot-licking Ling Han a tiny bit.

"However, Master Ling, hurry up and raise your Tier. We won't have any face always being suppressed by you, a person in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier." Huang Wei Ze joked as well. This was also because Ling Han was young, or else if it were Fu Yuan Sheng, he wouldn't dare say something like this.

Ling Han couldn't help but laugh. His spring's eye was already merged earlier—no matter if he were at the third layer or the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring, it all looked like the first layer of the Gushing Spring. He said, "Don't you all worry, I won't fight the day after tomorrow."

With such a good chance, he planned to sell the gingseng and ganoderma from the Black Tower to the people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. This way, he could weaken the financial resources of those competing for the Blue Scale Beast Fruit and bring himself some fortune, naturally killing two birds with one stone.

"Master Ling, you said it!" Everyone's eyes lit up.

The strongest in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North!

Who didn't want to have such glory? But if Ling Han took part, then other people wouldn't have a single bit of hope... unless they crossed into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but how many Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors under thirty years of age could there be?

Only Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, the two freaks.

Ling Han smiled. "I said it, so you guys don't have to worry at all, I only plan on selling some things."

"What medicinal pills does Master Ling plan on selling?" Everyone was curious; this youngster advanced into the Earth Grade, so the medicinal pills he took out were bound to be amazing.

"You guys will know the day after tomorrow." Ling Han kept it secret.

Everyone was curious, but didn't dare to question Ling Han closely, leaving them with an itch in their hearts. Anyways, enduring was not a big deal since the answer would be revealed the day after tomorrow.

Eating till very late at night, everyone left separately, but two people stayed at the inn, so it would only be a few steps to return to their own rooms.

One day, two days... time passed by quickly, and it was already the day of the martial arts tea party.

The venue was set at a square on the eastside of the small town. A massive sunshade-like structure was temporarily set up, enough to seat thousands of people. All members of the younger generation from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North with cultivation at least in the Element Gathering Tier, they averaged several hundred per country—the seats were more than enough to contain them.

The martial arts tea party started at noon and ended in the evening.

Ling Han, Liu Yu Tong, and the others came to the public square and sat down arbitrarily. They were a somewhat larger party with more people, and just happened to occupy one table. Hu Niu couldn't sit still and immediately took out snacks from the spatial ring that were prepared beforehand, eating very delightedly.

Very soon, more and more people came, such that the Star

Defense Force was also mobilized to maintain order; after all, youngsters were impetuous, and it was never good if someone died in a fight.

Cheng Fei Jun appeared, and said in a loud and clear voice, "Thank you friends for attending, everyone."

Most of the people instantly stand up. This was a high level Black Grade alchemist, he would be considered a Big Boss of alchemy in any of their countries—how could they not be respectful?

Chapter 297: Prodigies Battle

Ling Han naturally wouldn't respond, and if he didn't nudge, Liu Yu Tong and the others naturally wouldn't give Cheng Fei Jun face, either; they simply sat straight up as well.

"Hey, Master Cheng has personally spoken, you guys dare to stay seated and not give any face?" Someone on the side sneered, obviously boot-licking Cheng Fei Jun.

"Do I need to give him face?" Zhu Wu Jiu immediately said. He naturally knew of Cheng Fei Jun and Ling Han's conflict, glaring over at once.

"Great, not only do you not respect Master Cheng, but also publicly humiliate him. Looks like you guys are dead for sure!" That person swept his gaze across each one of their faces, and when he saw Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan's exceeding beauty, he was breathtaken as his eyes involuntarily tensed.

"Shut the hell up!" To the side of that person, someone gave him a big slap on the face. "You moron, do you know who he is? Ling Han, one who just advanced and became an Earth Grade alchemist! If you want to die then die on your own, don't involve us!"

Pu , that person instantly spat out, and his expression turned dreadfully pale at once.

He and Cheng Fei Jun were total strangers... honestly, he wanted to become acquainted with Cheng Fei Jun, but the latter might not even pay attention to him. Wasn't that why he took this chance to stir things up to boot-lick Cheng Fei Jun and form a relationship with him?

Great, this boot-lick didn't work, and he instead offended an Earth Grade alchemist—wasn't that seeking death?

"Ling... Master Ling, I am blind as a bat, please forgive me!" he hurriedly said in a quivering voice.

Ling Hand waved his hands dismissively, as he naturally wouldn't care about a nobody like that.

That person was as if he'd received a great pardon, hurriedly nodding his head towards Ling Han, but dared not to stay there anymore. After he sat for a short while, he got up and left, afraid that Ling Han would suddenly make him pay his for his rudeness.

"Everyone, today will mainly be tea tasting and discussion of martial arts. Drinking tea and harmony takes first, and as for sparring, stop when meaning is conveyed," Cheng Fei Jun said with a smile, then took out a pill bottle, displaying it all around. "This is Restore Heart Pill that will be rewarded to the one who takes the first place today."

Even a Restore Heart Pill was taken out, who wouldn't give it their best?

"Hahaha, this humble one is Hong Fei from the Rock Country. I am most adept with fist techniques, who wants to spar with me?" A tall and sturdy youngster jumped out first. There was a massive space emptied out for battle within the sunshade area.

"You're fit to use fists?" A lanky youngster walked out, emitting a shocking chilliness. "Showing off fist techniques in front of me, Lian Xiu Zhu... the only road left for you is death!"

"Hmph, are you the only one in this world who can use fists?" Hong Fei said indifferently, naturally not backing down.

"When I become the world's number one, certainly, I will be the only one fit to use fists and others won't be able to tarnish fist techniques!" Lian Xiu Zhu said aggressively.

"What an overconfident guy!"

"He actually said he would become the world's number one!"

"Lian Xiu Zhu? Huh, could it be the Lian Xiu Zhu from the Fire Country?"

"You've heard of him?"

"This person is known for being a fist maniac. It's rumored that he only knows one style of fist technique, which is the most common Black Tiger Tears Heart, and one he cultivated it for dozens of years."

"Pff, are you joking? Just cultivating the Black Tiger Tears Heart? That can't even be called a Yellow Grade technique!"

"It certainly is so, but it's rumored that this person is the number one amongst the younger generation in the Fire Country, defeating all of the Fire Country's elites; even the current Fire Emperor has praised him endlessly, conferring upon him the title 'Fist Marquis.'"

"He's really that strong?"

Everyone cried out. To be able to be acknowledged and praised by the Fire Emperor, and even being conferred the title of marquis upon, Lian Xiu Zhu's strength should be beyond average.

Hong Fei naturally heard it, and a sense of fear arose within him.

Although he was very strong amongst the younger generation, he had no qualifications to attract Rock Emperor's attention, receiving the title of some marquis or count.

"You're not fit to use fists!" Lian Xiu Zhu already launched an attack, a simple Black Tiger Tears Heart that conformed to the norm but boasting a massive and thick wave of Qi, as if a great master of fist technique appeared to perform it.

Peng!

Although Hong Fei launched his ultimate technique, he was absolutely no match for this fist and was instantly sent flying, lying on the side and coughing out blood.

Very impressive; Hong Fei was at the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, yet he couldn't even parry one fist. Lian Xiu Zhu was

certainly strong, living up to the Fire Emperor's evaluation.

"Brother Lian is strong as expected, this humble one wants to consult you." Immediately, a person leapt onto the field. This was a twenty-three or twenty-four year old young male; his physique was slender and a long saber hung by his waist, emitting a stunningly acute presence.

Lian Xiu Zhu's eyes lit up and he said, "Since you don't use fists, I can spar with you."

Well, this guy was certainly a fist maniac. If the others used fists, then he would just sent them flying, but those who didn't use fists could spar with him for a bit.

"This humble one is Hua Gao Yi, also from the Fire Country," this saber user said proudly.

Everyone involuntarily murmured an 'oh,' so he was also from the Fire Country—no wonder he jumped out to spar with Lian Xiu Zhu; now that the Nine Countries martial artists were discussing martial arts, no one wanted their own countrymen to be defeated.

There was no glory in that. right?

"Please!"

"Please!"

Lian Xiu Zhu and Hua Gao Yi immediately carried out a fierce battle. Fist Qi and Saber Qi clashed, and the battle already reached a climax from the very beginning.

As expected, Lian Xiu Zhu only used the Black Tiger Tears Heart back and forth, but he used it with much charm and grace, every punch held a different concept, and its power was shocking.

"Interesting." Ling Han revealed a faint smile.

"How's it interesting?" Liu Yu tong and the others asked one after another—even Guang Yuan wasn't an exception, because he also couldn't see what aspect was interesting.

Ling Han laughed, pointed at Lian Xiu Zhu and said, "He probably cultivates an unusual art that has the effect of raising battle prowess, and the side effect of it is that he can no longer cultivate other skills as they would come in conflict with that art. Thus, he only used the Black Tiger Tears Heart back and forth, yet its concept is changing constantly, and is very miraculous."

"There's such an art?" Everyone was baffled.

"In the vast world, there are naturally all sorts of rare and peculiar arts. Moreover, this person's expertise is in one punch—it just so happens to remedy the weakness of being unable to cultivate other skills. Sometimes, simplistic doesn't mean mediocre," Ling Han said leisurely.

Just like Mo Gao, who was also extremely focused on cultivating the sword and had absolutely not cultivated any sword skills, yet almost realized Sword Heart!

Simplicity never represented mediocrity.

The young man before their eyes had a different way to reach the same result, but he was still very far from sensing Fist Heart, only stepping onto this road.

Can Ye revealed an intense fighting spirit and said, "In a bit, I want to challenge that Hua Gao Yi."

He was also a saber user, and seeing Hua Gao Yi's splendid saber skills, he couldn't help but feel an itch in his heart, only wanting to battle.

Ling Han observed for a while and said, "You will have a chance. Hua Gao Yi's strength is not below Lian Xiu Zhu's, and this battle will probably end in a draw." He also clicked his tongue in wonder; prodigies showed up frequently among this generations youngsters, making him somewhat surprised.

Chapter 298: Selling Ginseng and Ganoderma

Lian Xiu Zhu and Hua Gao Yi battled fiercely.

The two were at two extremes—one was an expert in fist intent, only one punch back and forth, while the other was magnificent in saber techniques, with infinite changes—who knew how many saber techniques he learned.

One extremely simple and one extremely mixed, yet each could increase battle prowess far beyond one's own tier.

They were both in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier—although their battle prowess hadn't reached a level so exaggerated as the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it was at least fifteen stars! Normally, it was not bad if one's battle prowess surpassed one's tier by two stars, and having three to four stars could be called a genius, while five to six stars was... definitely a super genius.

In Ling Han's previous life, geniuses that surpassed five stars were considerably rare, but only freaks like Sword Emperor and Heaven Phoenix Divine Maiden could surpass ten stars. However, in this life, Ling Han had already seen several geniuses that surpassed five stars, and there hasn't been anyone with ten stars yet, but that was limited to the Nine Nations of the Desolate North—who knew how many geniuses were left in the north region, which was also the weakest area in martial arts.

No, there was a freak that surpassed ten stars — Hu Niu!

He forgot about the little girl—since she always stuck to his side, he subconsciously forgot her.

After fighting for ten minutes or so, Cheng Fei Jun stopped the battle. He had the mission to find the brightest ones today, so he naturally couldn't watch these two fight till dark.

Under his directions, everyone stepped forward to challenge

others. Since the field was large enough, several people carried out fierce battles at the same time. Everyone naturally could see which battles had more value.

There really were a few bright new stars, but it made sense; the Desolate North had a total of Nine Countries, and since the Rain Country had geniuses like Zhao Huan and Can Ye, why would other countries not have geniuses? This was not counting Yan Tian Zhao, Hu Niu, and Feng Yan.

A total of seven people left a deep impression in Ling Han's mind—other than Lian Xiu Zhu and Hua Gao Yi, there were three men and two women: Bai Yu Quan, Yu Xing Huo, Zhong He Guang, Qu Shui Yun, and Yuan Lian Shan, respectively.

Among them, Bai Yu Quan and Yu Shui Yun were the strongest—although they were only at ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, their battle prowess reached sixteen stars, making Ling Han feel as if he saw the young Sword Emperor and Heaven Phoenix Divine Maiden.

Of course, those two were still too inexperienced, and way less freakish than Sword Emperor and Heaven Phoenix Divine Maiden. Moreover, the lower the tier, the easier it was to battle above one's level. If they reached the Flower Blossom Tier and still possessed battle prowess that surpassed five stars, then that would truly be incredible.

Can Ye and Hua Gao Yi fought sparred in the end—while Can Ye had a slight upper hand, if it were a life and death match, then it would be hard to say what the final result would be. Sparring was sparring after all, and no one would truly use his or her ultimate moves.

"Haha, everyone, everyone, stop for a moment. Drink some tea, eat some desserts, and continue sparring afterwards." Cheng Fei Jun stood up again and stopped the sparring monetarily, then had people serve up deserts and the like.

Ling Han gave Zhu Wu Jiu a sign. Zhu Wu Jiu immediately stood up, carrying a large wicker basket on his back, and began to shout, "Selling ginseng and ganoderma, selling ginseng and ganoderma."

Pu , quite a few people immediately burst into laughter. This was a martial arts tea party, and you're actually yelling out and selling things—did you think this is a food market?

Cheng Fei Jun naturally saw Ling Han at the scene, and Zhu Wu Jiu was at the same table as Ling Han, so Cheng Fei Jun subconsciously assumed that Ling Han intentionally had someone stir up trouble. Cheng Fei Jun was infuriated, feeling detest for Ling Han for going against him at every turn.

"Hmph, this is a distinguished marital arts meeting, who dares to start trouble?" Cheng Fei Jun said coldly.

"Selling gingseng and ganoderma! Selling ginseng and ganoderma!" Zhu Wu Jiu paid absolutely no attention to him, simply shouting out loudly.

"Who is this guy daring not to give Master Cheng face publicly?" Many people didn't recognize Zhu Wu Jiu, immediately beginning to ask others.

"Hehe, this is one of our Rain Country's men called Zhu Wu Jiu."

"Zhu Wu Jiu? Is he strong?"

"He's not strong, but the person he follows is impressive... Ling Han, Master Ling!"

"Master Ling?"

"You don't know? Master Ling is an Earth Grade alchemist!"

Quite a few people were instantly stupefied. An Earth Grade alchemist in any country was more kickass than any bigshot. No wonder Zhu Wu Jiu dared not to give Cheng Fei Jun face—he had an Earth Grade alchemist behind him, thus certainly had the capacity to do that.

However, this brought on everyone's curiosity. The quality of the ginseng and ganoderma that this guy was selling shouldn't be too bad, right?

"Come, let me see!" someone immediately said.

Zhu Wu Jiu hurriedly greeted smilingly, opening the wicker basket and handing over a ginseng and a ganoderma.

"Such pure medicinal power!" Everyone seated here was from a large family or a large force, so their judgment naturally wasn't poor; they normally ate such tonic food like ginseng and ganoderma.

From smelling the medicinal fragrance, they knew that this ginseng and ganoderma were extremely aged.

"At least several dozen years of age!" He made a judgment.

Shua , hearing this, many people immediately circled around. They naturally wouldn't care about normal ginseng and ganoderma, but those aged several dozens of years would surprise them; it could largely restore Origin Qi, something of great use.

"No, no!" Someone immediately shook their heads. "This isn't just a hundred years, it's reached the level of hundreds!"

"Certainly!" Many more people expressed agreement.

Hundred-year-old ginseng? Ganoderma?

Everyone immediately revealed an exulted expression, and more people rushed over with intention of buying some.

"Ten Origin Crystals for one." Zhu Wu Jiu quoted a price.

Normally, if a price was not stated, then it meant one Origin Power Crystal as was the customary convention. Ten Origin Crystals—this price was very high since one Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator could only form one Origin Crystal a month—only ten a year.

"I'll offer ten, give me!"

"No, I'll offer twelve, it's mine!"

"I'll offer thirteen!"

Everyone immediately began to fight over the goods. These were good things for nurturing the body and Origin; also, they were good for recovering from hidden injuries, which martial artists commonly suffered on even a daily basis.

"Not auctioning, not auctioning. There are many ginsengs and ganoderma, as long as you have Origin Crystals, you'll have a share!" Zhu Wu Jiu said, face full of smiles.

What the heck, there were many?

This was ginseng and ganoderma, and not cabbage!

"Hey, I want the hundred-year-old ginseng and ganoderma, don't you take a five, six, or ten year one to trick me!" someone immediately said.

"How's that possible, Master Ling's reputation is not enough to assure you?" Zhu Wu Jiu immediately brought up Ling Han—mainly to intimidate them in case someone tried to take it forcefully, wasting time to incite trouble.

As expected, hearing the words 'Master Ling', some who had ill intentions immediately withdrew such thoughts. That was an Earth Grade alchemist, and if he went to his country to express discontent, it was guaranteed that the current emperor would immediately become infuriated.

"Here, everyone, as long as you've paid Origin Crystals, you can check for yourself. If the age is not sufficient, I'll immediately return the payment and gift the ginseng and ganoderma to you! However, that's on the condition you do it before you leave, otherwise, some might intentionally do a switch to deceive me! I don't really care, but Master Ling's reputation can't be tarnished by others!" Zhu Wu Jiu said in a justified manner, intimidating those who still had ill intents.

Chapter 299: There's More After All's Sold Out.

Even if Zhu Wu Jiu didn't speak of inspecting goods, everyone would never have overlooked it; it cost ten Origin Power Crystals after all!

Those special crystals containing the Origin Power were very normal products produced in large amounts—otherwise, with the market demand, they would already be used up, and it would impossible for such large amounts of them to appear.

There was a standard to Origin Crystals' size—they were the size of a finger. Also, rather than being a piece, they were more like sticks.

But to fill this small Origin Power Crystal, a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator had to spend a month's time... this was the normal rate if a Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator expended all their Origin Power and recovered it through meditation and not through eating medicinal pills—otherwise, it would be squandering family fortune, since medicinal pills were very expensive as well.

Even Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivators could only refine twelve pieces a year, so this thing was extremely precious and could reflect the value of the hundred-year ginseng and ganoderma.

One after another, people paid Origin Power Crystals to receive a stalk of ginseng or ganoderma, and hurriedly examined them closely. If they personally didn't understand, then they asked others on the side to appraise it, all of them revealing an exulted expression.

It certainly was hundred years old!

"I still want to buy a stalk!"

"I have money! I also want to buy three stalks!"

After confirming that the ginseng and ganoderma Zhu Wu Jiu sold were genuine, everyone was extremely excited, brandishing their Origin Power Crystals and barging in like local tyrants. These Origin Power Crystals were actually given by their families or forces for emergency usage; after all, the currency that flowed through here was Origin Power Crystal, while silver was used only between average people.

In the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, the Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors were definitely the pinnacle, so how could they possibly refine and condense Origin Power Crystals all day? Thus, even the Eight Great Clans couldn't take out that many Origin Power Crystals, what more normal families.

Therefore, these people that threw ten Origin Crystals at a time were simply willfully rich.

Guang Yuan shook his head repeatedly as he watched, and said, "If anyone dared to squander this lord's Origin Crystals like this, this lord would personally beat them to death!"

Ling Han sighed. "You say it as if you've refined Origin Power Crystals before."

"Pah, this lord doesn't even have time to cultivate, so how could I possibly waste Origin Power to do such a thing!" Guang Yuan immediately spat out shamelessly without caring for his image at all.

It made sense. Now that Ling Han was an Earth Grade alchemist, Guang Yuan's status was countless times lower than Ling Han's, so Guang Yuan naturally revealed his rowdiness as there was absolutely no need for him to put on airs of a senior or a powerhouse.

Everyone laughed underneath their breaths. Guang Yuan might be rude, but he was also an interesting person.

Everyone was disorderly crowded around Zhu Wu Jiu, and the

scene was extremely bustling. Some people didn't have ten Origin Crystals on them so they bargained with Zhu Wu Jiu, while others were a bit more rich and imposing, saying that they were willing to add onto the price to have priority over the selling of the goods as they were afraid that ginseng and ganoderma would be sold out.

Cheng Fei Jun's expression was gloomier and gloomier. The martial arts tea party he held was to pick out potential talents for Luo Ji Feng to select, but not for Ling Han to sell goods!

He couldn't help but stand up and remind everyone that it was about time to continue sparring.

However, no one paid attention to him.

People saw the ability of several others previously, and knew there was no chance for most of them to obtain the first place. So, since there was only one prize for the number one, why not focus on a treasure in their sight instead?

Cheng Fei Jun almost cursed out. The tea party was held by him and he was a high level Black Grade alchemist—how dare a group of mere Gushing Spring Tier martial artist not give him any face?

But Ling Han was on the scene, so he as a high level Black Grade alchemist was really nothing great. So what if they didn't give any face? There was still Master Ling, right?

This damned Ling Han, was he born to go against him?

Cheng Fei Jun slumped into his seat, his gaze filled with fury. He was even feeling hate for Luo Ji Feng now. That old man said he would get rid of Ling Han, but he had done nothing after so many days, letting Ling Han run around wildly perfectly fine.

After several more hours, Zhu Wu Jiu finally sold a whole basketful of spirit medicine, but there were still many people brandishing their Origin Power Crystals, wishing to buy more. He looked at Ling Han, and seeing Ling Han nod, he then said, "Those friends who haven't bought any, don't worry, you can find me later

at the inn's seventh courtyard. There will be large amounts of ginseng and ganoderma provided—a hundred-year-old ones. I promise everyone will be satisfied."

Only upon hearing that were those who hadn't bought any willing to leave.

However, everyone was shocked—after a wicker basketful of spirit medicine was sold, there were still more!? This was hundred year old ginseng and ganoderma we were talking about, not some random cabbage!

Normal people had a mere lifespan of a hundred years, and nowadays, areas deep in the mountains were full of medicine harvesters, thus the amount of spirit medicines was becoming fewer and fewer. One would be grateful for being able to occasionally harvest one stalk of hundred year old ginseng, but now a basketful was sold to them, and there was still more... could they have dug up an ancient medicinal garden?

Cheng Fei Jun's expression was like the fluctuating weather, filled with intense avarice. He thought that Ling Han must've found an ancient medicinal garden—obtaining it along with a grandmaster alchemist's heritage would explain both his supply of spirit medicine and his ability to become an Earth Grade alchemist at such a young age.

If he could obtain it... instantly, his heart was burning with inexhaustible desire, making him willing to take risks out of desperation.

Guang Yuan took it all in, and said to Ling Han, "Ling Han, that brat has aimed his killing intent at you."

Ling Han laughed lightly, and said, "No matter, a mere clown. I originally didn't care, but since he seeks death, then I'll send him on his way. I'll leave it to Old Brother Guang."

Pu! Guang Yuan instantly spurted out and said faintly, "That guy

is still a high level Black Grade alchemist, if I kill him, then the whole world's alchemists would see me as the most hated person."

"Just do it cleanly. He's merely at the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and based on Old Brother Guang's cultivation of the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, you can definitely suppress him with one hand, with neither god nor ghosts finding out." Ling Han smiled.

Guang Yuan received the complete Large Sun Heaven Heart Scroll, and with Ling Han's provision of medicinal pills, his cultivation welcomed a small upsurge, reaching the peak of the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, which was also unbelievable to even himself.

"Alright, leave this guy to me!" Guang Yuan said clenching his teeth. He received so many benefits from Ling Han yet hadn't truly done anything for him, making him feel obliged to do something.

Ling Han nodded. He truly didn't care for Cheng Fei Jun; as for Luo Ji Feng who almost blinded his eyes, he hadn't gone to "peak" again, so he didn't deeply understand this person.

That old man's presence gave him a familiar feeling, but he couldn't quite put his finger on it.

Chapter 300: An Elite Cultivator Suddenly Appears

Selling ginseng came to an end. The martial arts tea party naturally continued, though quite a few people were still thinking about the hundred year old ginseng and ganoderma. They obviously appeared to be preoccupied, decreasing the excitement at the scene by a whole lot.

Fortunately, Lian Xiu Zhu, Bai Yu Quan, and the others took the field to spar again. Their splendid performance restored a bit of the excitement, winning the frequent cheers of masses; especially when their home country's martial artists saw their own country's genius demonstrating invincible might and beating the talents of other countries, they were hysterically excited.

At last, a total of eight strongest from a single country each arose—Lian Xiu Zhu, Hua Gao Yi, Bai Yu Quan, Yu Xing Huo, Zhong He Guang, Yu Shui Yun, Yuan Lian Shan, and Can Ye.

Zhu Wu Jiu was still a bit unskilled after all with the cultivation of only the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. The only thing he could rely on was Silver Moon Body, while his own talent in martial arts barely qualified. He now only formed two flashes of Sword Qi, and was still a whole segment away from the title of a king.

It just so happened that the Nine Nations of the Desolate North each had one amongst the strongest—except the Cloud Country, making all the martial artists of that country embarrassed; there was no other way, since their skills were below that of others and martial artists spoke based on their strength.

"Ling Han, if you take the field, you alone can beat all eight of them," Liu Yu Tong said in a bad mood. The number one in the Desolate North should be the man she fancied.

"That's right!" On this point, Li Si Chan was naturally in the same trench as Liu Yu Tong.

Hu Niu pat her chest and said, "Niu will fight for Ling Han and take first place!" As she said that, she jumped onto the field, instantly causing Can Ye to turn pale. He'd suffered by the little girl's hands—no one in the Gushing Spring Tier could cope with her speed.

At the time, even Yan Tian Zhao suffered greatly, forcing him to unleash an ultimate move and only winning with his strange threads that bound the little girl.

However, he'd caught the little girl off her guard at that time. Hu Niu's strength had an apparent increase after that event as she was now in the fifth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier—if they were to fight again, the outcome of the battle would be very hard to predict.

No matter if it were Ling Han or Hu Niu, if these two monsters took the field, they would definitely be invincible amongst the Gushing Spring Tier warriors, and even low-level Spiritual Ocean Tier opponents would only be swept away.

Ling Han laughed aloud and said, "Niu Niu, don't scare little Can Ye, can't you see his face is all pale."

Everyone glanced at him and upon confirming it, they couldn't help but laugh one after another—it truly was rare for this young man, who was always indifferent to people, to lose his calm.

Hu Niu was so small and had absolutely no qualms with her actions—even Can Ye would have a headache.

Cheng Fei Jun invited Can Ye and the other seven to come up as he arranged their opponents. It just happened that four advanced from eight, and two advanced from four, and at last the strongest would be decided, consummating the day's martial arts tea party.

"The first will definitely be our Fire Country's Lian Xiu Zhu!"

"Bullsh!t, in front of our Rock Country's Hua Gao Yi, everyone is trash!"

"Shoo, shoo, shoo. With our Wind Country's Bai Yu Quan here, who would stand a single exchange?"

Personal glory was already elevated to a national level, everyone boosted the morale of the geniuses that won from their own country—except Cloud Country where no one came out on top. This made their expressions look terrible.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were very out of sorts. The one that should be in the limelight was Ling Han, and if he entered the fight, who would be his match?

The quarterfinals should originally be carried out one by one, but Zhu Wu Jiu started selling in the middle of the party. This delayed everything a lot, and now the four matches had to be carried out together.

Ping, Ping, Pang, Pang, the eight people split into four groups and started to fight. The scene was extremely intense, instantly attracting everyone's attention, making them cry out from time to time and expressing acclaim for his or her performance.

This trip truly wasn't for nothing, being able to see such splendid fights. Perhaps some of the arrogant and conceited youngsters would lose their haughtiness, realizing that not only their own country had geniuses that one could only look up at—even other countries had them too!

"Hahahaha, the mole crickets of the Desolate North dare to hold a martial arts tea party, absurdly discussing martial arts. Truly laughable!" A sharp voice resounded as a youngster took large strides, approaching with an expression of disdain.

"Who is it!?" Everyone turned their heads, even Can Ye and the other seven stopped their battles.

This person mocked the Desolate North, striking a blow at all of

the Nine Countries' people.

The white-clothed youngster was very handsome and his complexion was very delicate, giving people the urge to throw a punch at him—he was quite good at attracting aggro. On his waist hung two swords, which was quite rare.

He took large strides over and said, "The monkeys of the Desolate North, go back from where you came. The north region is not somewhere you can go!"

"Who are you, what does it matter to you?" someone shouted out.

The white-clothed youngster laughed proudly and said, "I forgot to introduce myself, sigh, announcing my name in front of you mole crickets is simply a humiliation for I, Bao Xin Ran! Whatever, I think I won't announce my name."

Pu , many people instantly burst into laughter. You said you wouldn't announce your name but you already announced it, is your head alright?

"The one surnamed Bao, get lost!" Someone snorted. Judging from Bao Xin Rang's tone, he should belong to a force in the north region. For the Desolate North, the north region was the true holy land of martial arts. Therefore, even if Bao Xin Ran spoke rudely, everyone chose to tolerate it somewhat.

Bao Xin Ran picked his ears and said, "Who told me to get lost just now, get out here and let me see. See if I won't shatter all of your teeth!"

"So what if I said it?" A tall and sturdy youngster stood out, his back like a tiger's and waist like a bear's, his height nearing two meters, his skin dark... he looked like a wild bear.

Peng!

Everyone's vision blurred; they only saw Bao Xin Ran vanish from his spot as a fist smashed onto the "wild bear's" face, directly sending him flying. That tall and sturdy youngster wanted to get

up, but halfway, pa , his whole head actually exploded. The headless body instantly lay down again, bleeding all over the ground.

In that moment, a hush fell over the entire place.

However, it was only an instant later that the crowd was burst into anger, wanting to flay and swallow Bao Xin Ran alive. You're strong and so you've won, but was there a need to kill?

"Oops, I hit too hard. I originally planned to just knock out all his teeth. But, whatever, those who insult me deserve to die," Bao Xin Ran said indifferently, then picked his ears again. "Which dreg still wants to fight?"

Everyone was silent. Although that person was only at the Element Gathering Tier, Bao Xin Ran's assault was extremely shocking, since most of the Gushing Spring Tier warriors present were unable to follow the attack with their eyes. If they personally faced it, then it would probably bode more ill than well.

Moreover, this person's attack was ruthless, and under the circumstances when one wasn't sure of success, there truly was no one who dared to rashly go down onto field to fight him.

"Brother Bao, this humble one has come to experience it himself." Zhong He Guang took large strides down onto the field.

"Oh, just you eight were contending over the title of the strongest prodigy of the younger generation? I'm dying of laughter. Mere several mole crickets actually having the delusion of being called first in whatever, simply unaware of what is called number one," Bao Xin Ran said coldly, ridiculing without hesitation.

"Sir, have you had enough!" Zhong He Guang was greatly enraged, taking off the whip curled around his waist.

Bao Xin Ran picked his ears, blew a breath at his finger and said, "How about this, I'll use one finger, and if I can't kill you in three moves, then I'll kneel on the ground and call you grandpa."

Arrogant, truly too arrogant!

Using one finger to go against one of eight great prodigies of the Desolate North? Moreover, killing him within three moves? He utterly looked down on them, and not to mention if he could win or not, killing people at every turn was simply not taking the Nine Nations of the Desolate North seriously, right?

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